

## U.N. experts end Iraq mission

MANAMA (AP) — A 16-member team of U.N. ballistic missile experts returned Saturday from a weeklong mission in Iraq to prepare for a crucial visit by their leader, Rolf Ekeus, Mr. Ekeus, due in Baghdad Tuesday will be firming up a long-term weapons monitoring plan to ensure that the Iraqis do not try to revive production of weapons of mass destruction. In return, the Iraqis are demanding a quick end to the oil embargo that has been in force against Baghdad since the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Ekeus has said he will recommend the lifting of the embargo to the U.N. Security Council Saturday was led by Wilfrid Smidovich, a Russian aide, to Mr. Ekeus, who is a Swede. Mr. Smidovich's team went to Iraq to fill gaps in baseline data needed for the monitoring plan in the field of ballistic missiles. The mission included gathering information and checking out Iraqi-provided data on industrial facilities that Baghdad could secretly convert to develop long-range Scud-type missiles prohibited under the Gulf war ceasefire terms.



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## Rebel bombs and rockets hit Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Rebel fighting Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani attacked residential areas of the capital Kabul with bombs and rockets Saturday, killing and wounding several people, official Kabul Radio said. Six rebel planes bombed districts seven times, killing or wounding an unspecified number of people as factional fighting entered its fifth week, according to the broadcast monitored in Islamabad. The forces of an anti-Rabbani council led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum fired rockets and mortar bombs, it said. The two sides also fired at each other's positions with artillery and machineguns, Afghan sources said. They said the fighting, which began on Jan. 1, was not as intense as on the previous two days. The Defence Ministry was among targets hit by planes controlled by Gen. Dostum.

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## Israeli group urges Golan settlers to quit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — About 100 Israelis Saturday urged Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights to pay "the price for peace" and prepare to have the land returned to Syria. The group, which came mainly from Tel Aviv and its suburbs, carried signs and pamphlets urging the more than 12,000 settlers on the territory to "accept the price for peace" with Damascus. Residents of several of the 33 settlements on the Heights attacked the group of wanting to sell out the Golan. The rally ended peacefully without police intervention.

## Yemen negotiates to free French hostages

SANAA (R) — Yemeni authorities negotiated Saturday for the release of three French tourists kidnapped by tribesmen seeking to force the government to route a planned road across their land. The three, including two women, were captured Sunday. Security forces said they were "in good health and had not been harmed" and that efforts were underway to secure their release. "The hope and expectation is that they will be freed soon, probably today or tomorrow," one diplomatic source said.

## Cle rides ready to resume talks

Nicosia (AFP) — Greek Cypriot President Glafkos Clerides said Saturday he was ready to discuss U.N. confidence-building measures if the Turkish-Cypriot side formally accepted U.N. proposals as a first step towards the reunification of Cyprus. Mr. Clerides said in a letter Thursday to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, released Saturday, that he "emphatically, clearly and unequivocally" accepted "the principles of the package of confidence-building measures." He also said he was ready to resume U.N.-sponsored talks with the Turkish-Cypriots.

## EU and GCC to meet on energy

MANAMA (R) — Officials from Gulf Arab states and the European Union (EU) will meet in Muscat in April to discuss cooperation in energy, a Bahraini oil official said in remarks published Saturday. Rashid Al Dhabib, chief of the Development and Industry Ministry's oil department, told Bahrain's daily Akhbar Al Khaleej that the April 19-20 meeting would review how to improve energy and technology trade between the two groups. The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states oppose a proposed European energy tax on their vital exports of crude oil and its products. The tax row has overshadowed talks between the two groups, which for years have been trying to reach a free trade accord.

## Hue elected French Communist leader

PARIS (AFP) — The French Communist Party (PCF) elected a little-known party bureaucrat Robert Hue to succeed hard-line veteran leader Georges Marchais at the end of its five-day congress Saturday. Mr. Hue, 47, mayor of Montigny-Lez-Cormeilles, near Paris, and president of the elected communist officials' association, was selected by the PCF national committee, formerly known as the central committee.

## 4 held for attack on Britons in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslim-led Bosnian authorities have detained four men for the abduction of three British aid workers in central Bosnia in which one was shot dead, U.N. officials said Saturday. Gunmen commandeered a car carrying the Britons, all U.N. convoy drivers, to a desolate area outside Zenica on Thursday, ordered them out and opened fire, killing one and wounding the other two. The assailants drove off with the car. (see page 3).

# Jordanian diplomat assassinated in Beirut

## Nayeb Maaytah's body flown home; Jordan vows to pursue his assailants

Combined agency dispatches

A GUNMAN SHOT and killed Jordan's second-ranking diplomat in Beirut Saturday, the first assassination of a foreign diplomat since Lebanon's 15-year civil war ended in 1990. Police said an assassin with an apparently unarmed accomplice killed Nayeb Imran Maaytah as he was driving from a parking lot near his house in the seaside Raouche residential district at 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

The attack marked a blow to the government's efforts to clean up Lebanon's image during the civil war years as a haven for assassins, kidnappers, bombers and hijackers (see page 10). Witnesses said the gunman, armed with a 9-mm pistol and dressed in a grey sweater, approached Mr. Maaytah's dark grey Mercedes 500 and pumped at least seven bullets through the driver's window. Most of the bullets pierced Mr. Maaytah's head and neck and he died instantly, police said. The assassin and his accomplice fled.

Mr. Maaytah was on his way to the embassy at Sakiet Janzeer, a few minutes' drive away, when he was killed.

"I saw the gunman standing close to the car and firing," said a witness who wanted to be identified only as Ghada. Howling winds and pouring rain muffled the sound of the shots, said Ghada, who was gazing out of a first-floor window overlooking the scene. Abu Nader, another witness, said he saw the gunman and an accomplice dressed in a black leather jacket and carrying no visible weapons fleeing down a nearby side street that leads into Raouche's crowded seaside boulevard.

"The assassin was holding the gun high. We first thought it (the gun) was a folded umbrella," said Abu Nader. "The two men didn't look like terrorists. They were both clean-shaven and unmasked." Witnesses refused to give their full names, saying they feared retribution.

Mr. Maaytah's body was taken to the American University hospital, where it was identified by Jordan's ambassador, Fakhri Abu Taleb. A Jordanian plane later flew the body to Amman.

Army officers carried the coffin of Mr. Maaytah, 43, from a military plane after it landed at Amman airport from Beirut.

"Allah u Akbar," shouted, draped in a Jordanian flag, was put in an ambulance decked with wreaths. "Glory to Jordan... down with the traitors," they said.

Over 1,000 relatives of Mr. Maaytah, who came from a leading tribe in southern Jordan, gathered at the airport. Many sobbed hysterically.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri called the assassination an "ugly crime." Foreign Minister Faris Bouez and Interior Minister Bishara Mirhaj contacted Amman to promise swift action to arrest the culprit.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the assassination. Ambassador Abu Taleb said the attack was politically motivated and carried out by "professional killers."

"Those who planned it, don't want stability and security for Lebanon and don't accept Jordan's policies," he said before accompanying Mr. Maaytah's body to Amman.

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinians have been negotiating with Israel for the past

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has deplored the killing of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah in Beirut Saturday as a dastardly crime that would not go unpunished.

"Such attacks and heinous crimes can only bolster our determination to pursue our goal as a united family walking bravely in the sun and not in dark vaults and shade concocting acts of crime and aggression," said King Hussein in a message addressed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

"Let all people know that we are the soldiers of the nation who fear no death in our defence of what is right, life, peace, the right of our nation to live and the right of the coming generations to a decent and secure life," King Hussein said.

"Nayeb Imran Maaytah was destined to follow in the footsteps of the other martyrs, but as to the rats and bats infesting the dark and also those behind them directing these acts will be damned and crushed wherever they might be found," said King Hussein.

"Vengeance for our martyr is a task for us all as one united family against the villains and the murderers," the King said. The Regent said Jordan would pursue its steadfastness



Army soldiers carry the coffin containing the body of Nayeb Imran Maaytah, the first secretary at Jordan's embassy in Beirut, from a plane which flew it to Amman Saturday evening. Mr. Maaytah (inset) was shot dead by a gunman in Beirut early Saturday (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

## Jordan seeks land-based inspection of cargo to enforce Iraq sanctions

### U.S. response said positive to proposal for private agency

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Amman hopes to replace U.S.-led sea searches of Jordan-bound vessels with inspection on land by a private organisation to ease damage to its economy, officials said on Saturday.

The United States, they said, reacted positively to the Jordanian proposal raised during talks in Washington this week between King Hussein and U.S. officials.

"We are working out details of this proposal under which a neutral, non-governmental body like Lloyds (Register) would carry out the inspection at Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba in coordination with the government," a Jordanian official told Reuters.

"In principle, they (Americans) are looking into the matter favourably and we expect that in no time it will materialise," said the official, who requested anonymity.

"The proposal is in compliance with U.N. resolutions but bears a less negative impact on the economy," he added.

U.S. embassy officials were not immediately available for comment. Jordan has complained bitterly of the searching of ships headed to Aqaba under U.S. efforts to enforce a trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The policy, labelled "the siege of Aqaba" by Jordan, has pushed up shipping costs, contributing to a nearly 30 per cent fall in business for the port, a main entry point for Iraq's non-embargoed goods.

Diplomats and officials said Jordan also pursued the plan with the U.N. Security Council although Washington has the major say in any change. The searches have diverted millions of dollars in business to Turkey, Syria and Iran.

On Thursday Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali told a U.N. committee supervising sanctions that Amman was complying strictly. He said sanctions cost Jordan \$300 million a year.

Amman has complained previously the 15-nation committee was slow or inconsistent in handling applications to export humanitarian goods to Baghdad.

Jordanian officials said the new proposals, unlike previous ones, would face no major opposition inside the Kingdom because it does not infringe Jordan's sovereignty.

King Hussein rejected American proposals in 1992 to replace sea searches with U.N. inspectors at Aqaba and the Jordan-Iraq border.

Joint commission  
Jordan and the United States have agreed to set up a joint commission to enhance wide-ranging cooperation, a Jordanian official said.

The move, agreed during talks between King Hussein and U.S. leaders in Washington earlier this week, is a major indicator of the dramatic

improvement in Jordanian-American ties since being chilled by the 1990 Gulf crisis, he added.

"This joint commission will facilitate consultation and cooperation on political, economic and security issues," the official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

He said the committee would hold two meetings a year — alternating between Washington and Amman. No decision had been made on what level it would be co-chaired.

Jordan, among Washington's key allies in the Middle East, angered the United States with its apparent sympathy for Baghdad during the Gulf crisis, sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But bilateral ties have improved on the strength of Jordan's backing for U.S.-led Middle East peace talks and its compliance with U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq, its key trading partner and powerful neighbour.

## Expectation low in Davos talks

DAVOS, Switzerland (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were set here Saturday to make a new bid to end the impasse over negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Arafat arrived from Tunis on Saturday and was to have talks at a heavily guarded local hotel with Mr. Peres outside the World Economic Forum in this Alpine resort town.

But both sides were playing down chances for a breakthrough in stalled discussions on limited self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat left Tunisia after appealing to U.S. President Bill Clinton for help in breaking the deadlock, which he blamed on the Israelis. He made the same request of British Prime Minister John Major on Friday.

Mr. Peres, who arrived here in a snowstorm Friday, said "many differences" remained to be ironed out before Israeli troops could withdraw from the two areas; he hoped the talks could be accelerated.

"There will be no break in the negotiations," he told Israeli Television. "They will continue even if we do not reach an accord in Davos."

The chief Israeli diplomat met here earlier Saturday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa but there was no word on the substance of their discussions.

Both sides said major problems remained in finalising an Israeli withdrawal that will allow Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, under the general terms of the agreement signed in Washington last September.

Upon his arrival at Zurich airport, Mr. Arafat told Swiss radio that no breakthrough was imminent.

Israeli radio reported that expectations of an immediate result were "below zero" in Mr. Peres' delegation.

"I just hope for the best," Mr. Peres told a crowd of waiting journalists as he entered the luxury hotel where the talks were to be held.

The two men planned to have a one-on-one meeting "because that is the way they've been able to solve problems before," said a source close to the Israeli Delegation.

The talks were due to begin at 8.15 p.m. (1915 GMT) but there was no immediate confirmation on whether they had started.

The Egyptian Middle East News Agency said earlier in Cairo that Mr. Arafat had asked Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, at the last minute to join him in Davos.

Mr. Arafat arrived at the

## 2 injured in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinian youths were wounded Saturday when troops fired at stone throwers outside a soccer stadium in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reporters said.

The two, ages 12 and 18, were among a crowd of about 1,000 people who left the Gaza City stadium after a soccer match, when an army jeep passed by. Some fans threw stones, and soldiers opened fire to disperse the crowd, the reporters said.

In the Fatah Hawks vigilante group linked to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction claimed responsibility in a statement read over a mosque loudspeaker.

Meanwhile, Fatah and its rival Hamas demonstrated their ability to cooperate when

## Majali returns, says King's U.S. visit highly successful

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali returned home from the United States on Saturday and said His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the U.S. was highly successful, fruitful and positive.

Dr. Majali accompanied King Hussein during the talks the monarch held with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior American administration officials on the peace process and issues of mutual concern.

"The King's visit to the United States was extremely important and very useful at all levels," Dr. Majali said in an arrival statement.

The Jordanian and the American sides discussed ways

to bolster bilateral relations as well as the peace process on all tracks, Dr. Majali said.

"We were gratified to see the United States understanding the Jordanian position with regard to the peace process," he added.

In reply to a question about his talks with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee on the implementation of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, Dr. Majali said he had presented a briefing on the damages caused to the Jordanian people and economy since August 1990 when the sanctions were imposed.

"We saw a complete understanding of our position," he said.

He said Dr. Ghali promised to do all that was possible to deal with the question of inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels.

Dr. Majali said the U.N. officials he met were cooperative and showed keenness to help reduce the adverse effects on the Kingdom of the enforcement of the sanctions.

Dr. Majali said he also met with the directors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss their aid to Jordan's economy.

Returning home with the prime minister were the King's advisor Marwan Al Qasem, Deputy Prime Minister Saeed Al Tal and other officials.

## House panel begins report on food, medicine situation

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament is preparing what its president, Mohammad Dawoudiyeh, called "a detailed, neutral and scientific" report on allegations by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas that a good quality of food and medicine that reaches the market does not meet standards and specifications.

Mr. Dawoudiyeh said the report would be based on information the committee would obtain through hearings it is conducting with a number of former health ministers and officials on the charges Dr. Malhas raised in comments carried by a weekly tabloid two weeks ago.

The committee, which started its hearings Saturday, said in a statement issued after a closed meeting it held with two former ministers of health that the two former officials had provided it with all relevant information they had to its investigation.

Former ministers of health Zeid Hamzeh and Adnan Al Jaljoul were very cooperative with the committee, Mr. Dawoudiyeh said in the statement.

Mr. Dawoudiyeh, a deputy

from Tafleeh, said the two former ministers insisted that medicine produced in Jordan met local and international specifications.

Dr. Malhas had said that a good quantity of drugs sold in the market was not registered with the Ministry of Health.

Sources who spoke to the Jordan Times last week confirmed that many irregularities occur at the ministry's pharmacy and drug control department, which is entrusted with testing and registering drugs.

Mr. Dawoudiyeh said the Public Freedoms Committee would be willing to initiate a parliamentary investigation into Dr. Malhas' charges if the House found it necessary but added that he prefers that a judiciary committee take charge of the issue.

Parliamentary sources did not expect many deputies to support the idea of setting up a parliamentary investigation committee. They said the majority would be in favour of having the judiciary investigate the issues raised by the minister.

The government has already announced the establishment of two ministerial committees to investigate Dr. Malhas' charges.

The House will Wednesday hold a special session during

which the government will explain measures it has adopted to ensure the safety of food and medicine and announce its position on Dr. Malhas' comments.

In a statement issued last week, presidents and spokesmen of parliamentary blocs and committees said the government should shoulder the responsibility for shaking public confidence in the safety of food and drugs and hurting the national economy if the minister's charges could not be proven true.

They said those involved in the charges should be sent to court if investigations lead to evidence that substantiate the allegations.

Observers expect Wednesday's session to include heavy criticism of the government despite its efforts to seize the initiative by announcing the establishment of the two committees to investigate Dr. Malhas' charges.

The House last week failed to put a time limit on the speeches lawmakers are expected to make on the issue after the government makes its presentation on Wednesday.

It is still not clear whether the five parliamentary blocs will agree to a proposal to have one of their members speak on the issue on behalf of the



## Gunmen go on rampage in lawless Somali town

NAIROBI (R) — Gunmen went on the rampage in the Somali town of Belet Huen, looting a U.N. warehouse and threatening to kidnap a foreign aid worker, relief staff said Friday.

The British charity Save the Children Fund (SCF) flew two foreign staff out of Belet Huen near the border with Ethiopia, on Friday because of the two-day rampage of shooting and looting, aid workers said.

"This is just a precautionary measure in view of what's going on in Belet Huen," SCF official Steve Rifkin said.

"There's a growing sense of insecurity with a lot of young armed guys shooting the town up."

Other aid workers said dozens of young gunmen from the local Hawadle clan looted a United Nations warehouse two days ago and then threatened to kidnap a foreign aid worker.

As more than 1,000 German U.N. peacekeepers and Italian units stayed holed up in their base, the youths rampaged late on Thursday, shooting into the air around aid agency compounds and tossing grenades into the river, aid workers said.

Rumours spread around the dusty town that the SCF warehouse would be looted. Mr. Rifkin said he did not take the threat seriously at this stage and denied hearing foreign aid workers might be taken hostage.

Two foreign aid workers with the Los Angeles-based International Medical Corps team of doctors and two German workers with the International Federation of the Red Cross were staying in the town in their houses, the aid workers said.

## Mourning

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials as well as family members and relatives Saturday await the arrival of the plane carrying the body of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Imran Maaytah, who was assassinated in Beirut earlier in the day (see page 1). The Jordanian leadership and government vowed Saturday to bring the perpetrators of the assassination of the diplomat, who hailed from a prominent tribe in southern Jordan. The body was moved to the King Hussein Medical Centre after its arrival. The funeral is scheduled to take place today, Sunday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



## Human rights group hits Turkey for detention deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — A human rights group on Friday complained about the "horrible total" of 21 Turkish prisoners who died in 1993 under suspicious circumstances indicating torture during interrogation.

Helsinki Watch said in a statement that the number was up from 17 similar deaths in 1992. It said the deaths came despite a promise in 1991 by Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to end torture. Mr. Demirel is now president.

"Suspects of both political and ordinary crimes — children as well as adults — are routinely and systematically tortured in police interrogation centres," the report said.

It said methods used include hanging naked victims by their arms tied behind their backs;

electric shock to the genitals; beating the soles of the feet; vaginal and anal rape, sometimes with truncheons and gun barrels; pulling out hair or fingernails, and forcing heads into excrement.

A spokesman for the Turkish embassy said the embassy had not seen the report and he could not make any comment.

Turkish officials have said recently the country's efforts to improve human rights performance included a 1993 legal reform in Turkey which specifically outlawed torture and called for human rights education for prison officials and police.

The Helsinki Watch report gave a brief description of each of the 21 prisoners who died under suspicious conditions in 1993. Some examples:

- Sefik Kaplan, 61, an imam or Muslim religious leader died in the eastern town of Bitlis during interrogation Sept. 8. Authorities said he committed suicide using his belt.
- Engin Atay, 22, a student in the eastern town of Eskisehir was arrested and taken from the interrogation centre to his eighth floor apartment. He was killed in a fall to the street. Police said he jumped with his hands handcuffed behind his back.
- Baki Erdogan, 27, accused of membership in a leftist group, died in Aydin in western Turkey Aug. 22. Photos, eyewitness accounts revealed Erdogan had been tortured. Police said he died of "insufficiency of the respiratory system."
- Kemal Canpolat, 27 was detained for alleged Kurdish nationalist activities Oct. 31, in the southeast city of Diyarbakir. He died during interrogation and his body was found by his family later at a morgue. Hospital officials reported bruises showing Canpolat had been severely tortured.
- Haci Ibrahim Dilek, a Kurdish farmer detained in southeast Turkey on March 30. The same day his body was found dumped by a road. A report by a state prosecutor and forensic doctors said, "There were marks of beating covering almost the entire body... from an injury to the anus it appeared a hard object had been inserted as a method of torture. The anus had been ruptured."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Christopher gives Jewish leaders assurances

NEW YORK (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has told a group of Jewish leaders the United States is not going to pressure either side in negotiations between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights. A participant in the meeting, which took place Thursday in Washington, quoted Mr. Christopher as saying the United States did not plan to act as mediator or an intermediary unless both sides requested it and there would be no pressure on Israel to make progress. He said the bilateral peace discussions going on at a secret location in Washington between the two countries were making "real progress." The participant at the meeting, which included about 75 leaders of Jewish groups, said Mr. Christopher informed the group that Syria had kept its word and issued travel documents to almost all the 850 Jews remaining in the country.

### Rabin, Arafat nominated for Nobel prize

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The president of the Council of Europe's assembly said Friday he had nominated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for the Nobel Peace Prize. Miguel Angel Martinez said in a statement he had put forward Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat in a letter to Francis Sejersted, president of the five-member Nobel Committee, because of their work towards Arab-Israeli peace. "The efforts of (Rabin and Arafat) to reach an agreement deserve support, not only for peace and prosperity in the Middle East, but also for a happy outcome to European construction and détente in the world," Mr. Martinez wrote in the letter. He said Mr. Arafat would address the assembly in Strasbourg on April 13. Mr. Arafat travelled to Strasbourg last month to address the parliament. Mr. Rabin made a speech to the assembly on Wednesday.

### Kurdish guerrillas kidnap TV reporter's

ANKARA (AP) — Kurdish guerrillas kidnapped two reporters working for a fundamentalist television station in southeastern Turkey, Anadolu news agency said Friday. Kutlu Esendimir and Recep Ozturk were on assignment in the region for a week. They were abducted by the separatist rebels on Wednesday near the town of Idil in southeastern Sirmak province, the agency said. In November, Kurdish guerrillas threatened to kill Turkish and foreign reporters in the area, accusing them of sympathising with the government in their coverage. Fourteen journalists have been killed in southern Turkey since February 1992. Most of the victims worked for leftist or pro-Kurdish publications. The guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party have been fighting for autonomy in the region since 1984.

### Thais lose paperwork in Saudi theft

BANGKOK (R) — Thai police investigating the theft of jewellery from a Saudi palace say they have lost a crucial document listing the stolen items, newspapers said Saturday. The disappearance is the latest bizarre twist in the four-year-old case, which started with police investigating a Thai worker who stole \$20 million in jewellery from a Saudi prince. The worker was caught and the jewellery returned, but the Saudis said 75 per cent of the returned items were fake. Police Lieutenant Chalor Kerdtet is on trial along with several other policemen on charges that he embezzled some of the jewellery while heading the investigation team. Lt. Chalor told the criminal court he gave a list of the recovered jewellery to the crime suppression division in January 1990. But officers in the division told the court on Friday they never received it. Ties between Thailand and Saudi Arabia have soured considerably over the case. Riyadh has stopped issuing visas for Thais seeking jobs in Saudi Arabia, where a quarter of all Thais working abroad were once employed. The court set Feb. 8 for another hearing, newspapers said.

### Legal video rental returns to Iran

TEHRAN (R) — About 1,000 government-approved video shops opened in Iran this week — the first legal rental service since video-recordings were banned soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution. The shops are offering about 400 titles distributed by a new institute of visual media which vets them for violations of Islamic morals, barring any display of physical contact between men and women. About half the titles are Iranian productions, the others old films from the West, Japan, India and Russia. Underground video libraries are common in Iran. About one home in four was believed to have acquired an illegal video player, convincing the government it was better to offer an alternative. "Videos have invaded the home to carry the message of Western materialism," the Institute of Visual Media said in a statement. "It is up to us to use this weapon in self-defence."

### Israeli soldiers detain AFP photographer

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Israeli army on Friday briefly detained an AFP photographer taking pictures of soldiers checking identity cards in the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers ordered Fayed Nureddin, a 26-year-old Palestinian photographer with AFP's Gaza bureau, to hand over his camera and confiscated his identity and press cards before driving him to a military base. An AFP reporter at the scene intervened but he, too, was questioned, insulted and then freed half an hour later. Following his release, Mr. Nureddin said he had been interrogated for two hours. Earlier in the West Bank town of Ramallah, Israeli troops wounded another Palestinian press photographer who was photographing clashes between Palestinians and soldiers. Atta Ussat, 24, who works for the Israeli photo agency Zoom 77, was attacked by members of an Israeli army "special unit" disguised as civilians. Soldiers and border guards rammed their rifle butts in his face and broke the bone under his eyebrow.

## Abu Nidal group wants to join Damascus alliance

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Abu Nidal group has applied to join a Palestinian alliance opposed to the moderate strategies of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the factions in the Damascus-based coalition appeared to be split over the issue, informed sources said Saturday.

The Abu Nidal, formally calling itself Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), renewed its bid to join the alliance after the coalition named a 20-member leadership council on Jan. 19, the sources said. An earlier FRC bid to join the alliance, when it was first created as a loose umbrella in September 1992, was turned down.

According to the sources, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) of Nayef Hawatmeh opposes any membership for the Abu Nidal group in the alliance. It is citing the numerous attacks on PLO officials claimed or attributed to the Abu Nidal group and objecting its entry into the alliance, they said.

"Abu Nidal's hands are stained with Palestinian blood, and he has no place in a Palestinian nationalist group," according to a senior DFLP official.

The DFLP also argues that the presence of the FRC in the alliance would be insignificant in view of the small size of the group. It is estimated that the Abu Nidal group has less than 200 members scattered around in the Arab World, but mainly in Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, believes that the FRC should be given

## 'Soldier's soldier' tipped as Algerian president

ALGIERS (R) — Liamine Zeroul, tipped to become Algeria's new president, is a career army officer who may have greater latitude than his predecessors to negotiate an end to Algeria's civil strife with Muslim fundamentalists.

Radio France on Friday quoted Yousef Khatib, the chairman of Algeria's national conference on its political future, as saying General Zeroul was the only candidate for president.

The forum wound up on Wednesday without naming a president.

Gen. Zeroul, 52, fought as an officer in Algeria's nationalist war against France and has spent nearly all his life in the military, culminating with his appointment as defence minister last July.

Known as a soldier's soldier, Gen. Zeroul in the 1980s commanded three of Algeria's

six military regions — the army's key operational posts — before becoming land forces chief in 1989.

He resigned from the military that year after a dispute with former President Chadli Benjedid and became ambassador to Romania before he was recalled and named defence minister last year.

Diplomats say Gen. Zeroul is widely respected in the army for his qualities as a soldier.

As defence minister he has presided over a relentless campaign against Muslim militants, who took up arms after the January 1992 cancellation of Algeria's first multi-party parliamentary election.

The vote was set aside after the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) fundamentalist party took more than 80 per cent of seats in the December 1991 first round and appeared headed for certain victory.

## Iran swept by religious fervour on 'Mahdi' birthday

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran was swept by religious fervour Friday, the birthday of the "Mahdi," the missing 12th imam of Shiite Muslims, whose promised reappearance they believe will bring everlasting peace to the world.

Iran's political and religious leadership — which overlap considerably — observed the feast day by donning the mantle of peacemakers and appealing for a peaceful settlement to global conflicts.

Thousands of worshippers attending weekly prayers at Tehran University heard pleas of praise for the Mahdi and chanted "May God hasten his reappearance."

Iranians identify the Mahdi, or saviour, as Imam Mohammad Ben Ali Hassan, born in

805 A.D. and regarded by them as a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad.

He is said to have disappeared, but to remain present everywhere on earth in "occulted" form, pending God's will for his reappearance.

"The Mahdi may be standing right next to us now, watching over us," said an elderly man at the prayer meeting. "May God hasten his reappearance so that there is everlasting peace, an end to wars and bloodshed."

Tehran and towns throughout Iran were decorated with bunting, flags and banners with slogans praising Allah and pleading for the Mahdi's reappearance.

"This is like Christmas in the Christian world for us, but without any commercialism attached to the holiday," said an Iranian journalist.

Iran's supreme spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told 250 Shiite leaders attending a conference in Tehran that Iran was saddened by bloodshed in many Muslim states or provinces.

"Iran considers the problems of Kashmir, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine and other oppressed nations to be its own, and tries to bring about their peaceful settlement," he said.

He said differences between the Sunnis — Islam's major sect — and the Shites who are predominant in Iran were fanned by the United States "and other hegemonic powers and their lackeys."

President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who opened the conference, called on Shites everywhere to maintain unity with other Muslims and work for peace.

"Iran can resist U.S."

Fifteen years after the Islamic revolution Iran has evolved into a regional and global power which can withstand all pressure from the west, notably the United States, an Iranian newspaper warned Saturday.

The English-language Tehran Times accused the United States of "refusing to come to terms with the realities of the revolution" in Iran and of plotting to undermine the Islamic regime there.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Feature Film: "Je. Tue. 11, Fantastique"

19:00 ..... News in French

19:15 ..... Fecnetur Sur

19:30 ..... News in Hebrew

20:30 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... You Bet Your Life

21:00 ..... Out Of The Past

21:30 ..... News in English

22:30 ..... Island Son

23:10 ..... The Golden Palace

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:08 ..... Fajr

06:27 ..... (Sunrise) Duha

11:49 ..... Dhuhr

14:45 ..... Asr

17:10 ..... Maghrib

18:30 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Orthodox Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop with rain falling in all parts of the Kingdom as a result of a cold air front affecting the region. With another cold air front affecting Jordan in the afternoon, temperatures will drop further with snow falling over high areas and winds becoming southwesterly active. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers; winds will be southerly active and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 4 / 10

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba	9 / 19	Khalef pharmacy	985417
Deserte	1 / 17		
Jordan Valley	3 / 12		

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Agaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Agaba 33 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

- Dr. Fakhri Al Bilalci 663412
- Dr. Khalidun Asfour 669973
- Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
- Dr. Yousef Abdo 669916
- First pharmacy 661912
- Ferdous pharmacy 778336
- Al Asema pharmacy 637055
- Nairookh pharmacy 626272
- Yacoub pharmacy 664965
- Shmeisan pharmacy 637660
- Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

- Dr. Muhammad Al Khalili 773099
- Alwadi pharmacy 661000

ZARQA:

- Dr. Issa Al Omari 901266

#### EMERGENCIES

- Food Control Centre 637111
- Civil Defence Department 661111
- Civil Defence Emergency 630341
- Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
- Fire Brigade 801228
- Highway Police 775121
- Traffic Police 843402
- Public Security Department 630321
- Hotel Complaints 605880
- Price Complaints 661176
- Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
- Amman Municipality 787111
- Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
- Overseas Calls 010270
- Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
- Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
- Jordan Television 773111
- Radio Jordan 774111
- Water Authority 680100
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
- Electric Power

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

- Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
- Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
- Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
- Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
- Malhot, J. Amman 636140
- Palestine, Shmeisan 664171/4
- Shmeisan Hospital 669131
- University Hospital 845945
- Al-Musharraf Hospital 891611/5
- The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
- At-Ash, Abdali 664164/6
- Italian, Al-Muhajiroun 77101/3
- Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 77511/26
- Army, Marka 777101/3
- Queen Alia Hospital 602249/50
- Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

- Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
- Zarqa National Hospital (09)900640
- Ibn Sina Hospital (09)967322
- Al-Nahla Modern Hospital (09)969990

IRBID:

- Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
- Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
- Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:15	Bangkok (RU)
06:00	Damascus (RU)
06:45	Jeddah (RU)
07:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
08:00	Beirut (RU)
08:30	Lamaca, Damascus (RU)
09:00	Bahrain, Doha (RU)
09:30	New York, Amsterdam (RU)
10:00	Paris, Brussels (RU)
10:30	Madrid, Geneva (RU)
11:00	Alibon (RU)
11:30	Frankfurt, Rome (RU)
12:00	London (RU)
12:30	Agaba (RU)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Agaba (RU)
06:00	Beirut (RU)
06:45	Frankfurt (RU)
07:30	Rome (RU)
08:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RU)
08:30	Vienna (RU)
09:00	Amsterdam, New York (RU)
09:30	Athens (RU)
10:00	Cairo (RU)
10:30	Damascus (RU)
11:00	Agaba (RU)
11:30	New Delhi (RU)
12:00	Riyadh (RU)
12:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
13:00	Singapore, Jakarta (RU)
13:30	Bangkok (RU)
14:00	Sinai (RU)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00	Damascus (AZ)
12:25	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:25	Moscow (SU)
19:40	Larnaca (CY)
19:45	Beirut (ME)
20:05	Cairo (MS)
22:30	Istanbul (TA)

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	750/400
Banana	580
Banana (Makame sag)	680
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	180/100
Cauliflower	90 / 40
Celery	850 / 600
Cucumbers (large)	250 / 180
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 150
Eggplant	160 / 50
Garlic	900/600
Green beans	180/100
Lemon	160 / 100
Marrow (large)	100 / 80
Marrow (small)	220 / 150
Olives (green)	700/500
Orange	240 / 160
Onion (dry)	380 / 100
Onion (green)	360 / 250
Potato	240 / 160
Pepper (hot)	260 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	240 / 160
Spinach	120 / 60
String beans	200 / 120

### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus ..... 3:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman ..... 10:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:10	Rome (AZ)
12:30	Doha, Bahrain (GF)
14:25	Moscow (SU)
20:25	Larnaca (CY)
20:55	Cairo (MS)



## Prince Abdullah turns 32

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein, turns 32 today. Born in Amman on Jan. 30, 1962, Prince Abdullah started his education at the Islamic Educational College in Amman, which he attended until 1966. He entered St. Edmund's School in Surrey, England and later attended Deerfield Academy in the United States, where he completed his high school education.

In 1980, Prince Abdullah joined the Royal Academy at Sandhurst, in England, where he received his military education.

The Prince joined Oxford University for a year, starting in October 1983, for special studies in international politics and world affairs.

From August 1987 to May 1988, he attended the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In January 1993, Prince Abdullah was promoted to full Colonel and is currently Commander of the Jordanian Special Forces.

The Prince has participated in several training courses in artillery and various small arms. He has also served with Jordanian Special Forces, in airborne and anti-terrorist activities.

He is qualified as a parachutist from both the British and French armies. His other skills include free-fall parachuting and repelling and he is a qualified frogman and pilot.



pilot.

In addition to his career as an army officer, Prince Abdullah has served his country many times in the official capacity of Regent, in the absence of King Hussein, and he regularly performs other official functions including being president of the

National Football Union. On June 10, 1993, Prince Abdullah was married to Her Royal Highness Princess Rania.

The Prince's interests include, car racing (he has been Jordanian National Rally Racing Champion), water sports and scuba diving.

Upper House approves '94 budget  
Government pledges to ensure citizens' security

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Saturday unanimously endorsed the 1994 fiscal budget which was earlier approved by the Lower House with some amendments, and heard a pledge by the government to strike hard at anyone who would tamper with the country's security, particularly food and medicine.

The budget endorsement came after comments by several senators and the reading of the Senate Financial Committee report recommending approval of the JD 1.478 billion budget.

The report said the committee approved the government's economic policies at the local, regional and pan-Arab levels and its five-year socio-economic plan which began last year and continues through 1997 and aims at achieving the following:

1. Attaining a six per cent growth rate in the gross domestic product (GDP).
2. Reducing the margin of

the fiscal budget gradually to reach three per cent by the year 1997.

3. Attaining a 14 per cent growth in the volume of exports during the five-year plan.

4. Attaining parity in the balance of payments by the year 1997.

5. Reducing foreign debt to GDP at constant prices from 143 per cent to 98 per cent.

6. Reducing the annual interest on foreign debt from 50 per cent in 1992 to 22.5 per cent in 1997.

7. Reducing the rate of domestic consumption against GDP from 102.6 per cent in 1992 to 88.1 per cent in 1997.

8. Retaining the current rate of inflation at five per cent annually.

9. Reducing the rate of unemployment to 9.6 per cent by 1997.

The report presented a six-point plan which the committee said it would urge the government to pursue at the domestic and foreign levels. The committee recommended:

towards achieving social justice.

The minister reiterated the government's policy with regard to dealing with poverty and unemployment, and reexamining regulations concerning land use.

He also stressed Jordan's policies in the fields of energy, agriculture, water and irrigation, national security and public administration reform as submitted earlier to the Lower House.

Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar thanked the Senate for its endorsement of the budget and pledged the government's determination to pursue the set goals of achieving socio-economic development.

In his statement, Dr. Abu Nowar said that the government is determined to ensure the country's security and it will not be lenient with any party trying to tamper with this matter.

"The government will strike with an iron fist at anyone or

party trying to tamper with the security of Jordanian citizens and the homeland, and I do here reaffirm the government's position with regard to the food and medicine which is part and parcel of the Jordanian people's security," he said.

"We will not spare any effort in tightening control over the drug and food situation," said the deputy premier.

He said that the Health Ministry was taking appropriate measures designed to provide full security for food and medicine and the best medical treatment for all citizens.

He added that the government will move quickly to put an end to malpractices by a small group of persons who, he said, aim to serve their own selfish interests. Dr. Abu Nowar said the government will prevent any further blunders or crimes, or any excesses or violations of the laws, and prevent any corruption or negligence, to protect the nation.

## Experts to gear research to farmer's needs

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) Saturday began a two-day seminar aimed at developing a coordinated and unified national strategy for agricultural research in Jordan.

"This exercise is very, very important," Robert Booth, an assistant director general for ICARDA told the Jordan Times. "Most agricultural research in Jordan up until now has been done on an ad-hoc basis. It is important that future research efforts in this area be thoroughly planned and well coordinated," said

Dr. Booth.

He added that there is a need for further agricultural research that is responsive to the needs of the sector — "in other words, the farmers themselves."

The seminar is centred around the work of several sub-committees of specialists who are presenting reports in various areas.

Those presented on Saturday included the areas of irrigated farming, rain-fed agriculture, pastures and grazing and animal resources.

These reports will then be used as aids in forming an overall medium-term research strategy for Jordan.

The sub-committees include experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Jordanian universities and the National Centre for Agricultural Research and

Technology Transfer (NCARTT). Mahmoud Duwairi, NCARTT's director general, told the Jordan Times.

He stressed that despite the consultancy roles of foreign agencies in the seminar, the work presented and the decisions made at the meetings will be that of Jordanians themselves.

USAID representative to the seminar Edward Loomis concurred. "This project was initiated by and for Jordanians. We are only here in the role of back-seat advisors and technical consultants."

"It is essential that they (Jordanians) implement plans which they have developed themselves," said Dr. Booth.

"There is a higher probability of a national plan being implemented by people if its de-

signers are their own countrymen. We have, in the past, ourselves developed projects for implementation in Jordan. They are now lining bookshelves," he commented.

Dr. Duwairi said that a current need for further progress in agricultural research efforts in Jordan was "human resources." This seminar and what follows from it may indicate that some of the types of specialists needed are simply not available in Jordan at this time, he said.

Dr. Duwairi said he would like to see more financial aid and encouragement for the training and study of agricultural specialists and researchers.

"This is really vital for implementing any research. We also need incentives for them so that the people who are trained stay on to help us."

Addressing the opening session of the seminar, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mahdi Farhan said the country's achievements at the academic level far exceed its accomplishments in agriculture despite the ministry's efforts to provide the required means for such development.

"Regrettably, we are still dealing with agriculture as a hobby and failing to attain the aspired objectives," said the minister.

Experts from Jordanian universities, the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the USAID, ICARDA and ISNAR, a Netherlands-based international agricultural research centre, are taking part in the workshop.

The seminar is being held at the NCARTT in Baqaa.

## National commission highlights women's issues — Princess Basma

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has said that the National Commission on Women's Affairs aims to highlight women's issues in Jordan.

In an interview with the United Nations Television, broadcast by Jordan Television Saturday evening, Princess Basma said the commission is also concerned with getting Jordanian women involved in the economic and social development process by providing them with the suitable environment in legislative, cultural, educational, social and economic fields.

Princess Basma, currently in New York to take part in the meetings of a special team entrusted with preparing plans for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said the commission derives its importance from having as members a group of men and women interested in women's issues and in means of enhancing women's roles at the national level in all fields.

The commission managed, through holding a series of comprehensive dialogues and meetings, to crystallise a



national strategy on women for the first time in Jordan's history, Princess Basma said.

She said Jordan gives priority to providing educational opportunities to citizens because they are the country's most precious resources.

She noted that women have equal rights in most fields of life and some of them have occupied ministerial posts.

In the last parliamentary elections, a woman won a seat in the Lower House "and we are all proud of that," she said.

In reply to a question on the chances of change available to women in developing countries

in general and Jordan in particular, Princess Basma said the will for change stems from the society, and there was no need to impose it from the outside.

In addition, change should take place gradually and not overnight, and it should come from people themselves, what they believe in and what they need, she added.

Princess Basma said she hoped that Jordan and the entire Middle East region would enjoy the fruits of peace "which is something we have been looking forward to for a long period of time, and I think peace will achieve many gains for people and will provide them with better opportunities for stability, progress and prosperity."

Jordan can contribute to this to a great extent because of its moderate stands and because of its having advanced models of progress in various fields such as education, health and others, she said.

"We in Jordan confide in the U.N. and its agencies which have had key roles in the national development process," she added.

## Mayors to attend workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayors of towns and villages in the northern Jordan Valley, Al Koura, Bani Kanana and Ramtha districts will participate in a workshop which will open Sunday at Yarmouk Sports Club in North Shuneh.

The Mayors are scheduled to discuss local administration legislation, proposals to develop them, municipal services and environmental issues.

## National democracy society to outline plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Society for the Enhancement of Freedom and Democracy will open a seminar here Monday at the Regency Palace Hotel, aimed at publicly outlining its programmes and objectives and opening its roster to new members, according to society Vice President Salah Jarrah.

Dr. Jarrah said the seminar, which is the society's first activity, has been organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany and will be opened by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Al Masri.

The seminar entitled: "Democracy in Jordan: Concepts and Practice," will also be addressed by the Naumann Foundation representative, Walter Ruedel, who will tackle the question of political education in Germany.

According to Mr. Jarrah, the society has been set up to help spread what he called "democracy awareness" in the Kingdom and help various local institutions adopt democratic practices.

The society, which groups academicians, politicians, journalists and other political activists is a non-profit organisation aimed at fostering democratisation in the minds of citizens as well as in their behaviour,

thus achieving freedom, equality and justice in society, said Mr. Jarrah.

He said the Friedrich Naumann Foundation provides funding and training of personnel through different programmes which include seminars, workshops, an out-reach lecture service and the publication of educational materials.

Mr. Jarrah explained that the society aims to apply the provisions of the Jordanian constitution and the National Charter and the principles of democracy, freedom and equality as well as guarantee human political and social rights.

The society will also monitor

the performance of various institutions concerning the application of laws and will suggest revisions to some in a manner that would best suit democracy. It will also help to promote cultural, social and sports activities in the Kingdom.

A quarterly newsletter, "The Democratic Monitor," to be published with assistance help from the foundation will also help the society staff and members to exchange knowledge and information with international organisations.

Society sources said that membership will be open to all Jordanians above 18-years-old.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ali Mahafza honoured at Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — A reception was held Saturday at Yarmouk University to honour former university President Ali Mahafza. Current President Marwan Kamal delivered an address at the reception in which he commended the achievements of Dr. Mahafza and his efforts to develop the university. Dr. Mahafza left Yarmouk University with achievements attesting to his performance and was influential in bolstering its traditions and expanding its faculties and departments. Dr. Kamal said.

## Clean-up begins in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — A cleanliness campaign Sunday started in the port city of Aqaba. The campaign, which is organised by the Aqaba district in cooperation with the city's municipality, will include cleaning the city entrances, and clearing water canals and culverts from rocks and soil.

## Zarqa's '93 projects total JD 2m

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality last year carried out several services projects at a total cost of JD 2,010,019, according to Zarqa Mayor Yasser Al Omari. Mr. Omari told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, most of the projects consisted of asphalted roads, constructing sidewalks and designing cooling and refrigeration systems. The municipality, he said, has completed work at the Zarqa Public Park after planting it with olive and forest trees. The mayor said the municipality's revenues in 1993 had totalled JD 5,276,839 of which the municipality collected 85 per cent.

## JSCEP to hold seminar in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) will Wednesday organise in Aqaba a specialised seminar on environmental training issues. The five-day seminar will include lectures and presentation by experts from several Jordanian universities and institutions as well as the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation. It will also include field visits to fertiliser plants, the Jordanian Ports Corporation and the Aqaba Water Treatment Plant.

## Chinese commercial team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese commercial delegation is due to arrive in Jordan Tuesday on a several-day visit to hold talks with officials from the public and private sectors on ways and prospects of increasing commercial cooperation between Jordan and China. The talks will also cover means of promoting relations between private sector establishments in both countries.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Shaker Abu Ghazaleh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ghazwa Shukri at the New English School Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hammoud at Baladna Art Gallery (Wasfi Al Tal Street).
- ★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandoouq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Omar Al Basoul at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition by Suha Noursi entitled "Landscapes" at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Gallery (8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.).

## LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Turning Point from Greece to Rome: The Classicism of the Augustan Age" by Professor Giorgio Gulluni at the Jordanian-Italian Institute of Archaeological Sciences (near the Italian Hospital) at 5:30 p.m. (Tel. 757246).

## FILMS &amp; DRAMAS

- ★ Film entitled "The Wrong Man" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (105 minutes).
- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.).

## POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by poet Jiries Samawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

## SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar entitled "The Oslo Agreement And The Horizons Of The Next Dispute In The Region" by Mr. Najj Aloush and Mr. Samih Samara at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

## Swedish deputies visit Bakaa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting Swedish parliamentary group toured the Bakaa refugee camp near Amman Saturday.

Leading the eight-member group, Berndt Ekholm said that the parliamentarians wanted to have a better understanding of the Palestinian refugee problem because Sweden was deeply concerned with the ongoing Middle East peace process and has major interests in the region.

The group plans to cross to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to study the situation there, said Mr. Ekholm during the tour, which covered installations and schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Sweden is one of the major donors to UNRWA, ranking fourth among donor nations, because Sweden is convinced of the agency's role towards serving the refugees, added Mr. Ekholm.

UNRWA sources said Sweden's contribution to UNRWA last year was \$18 million.

Mr. Ekholm and his delegation came to the region in the course of a programme organised by the Swedish Diaconia Relief and Charitable Organisation which is financing UNRWA's rehabilitation centre at Bakaa camp, according to UNRWA officials.

## Kerosene stove fire kills 3 children, mother is in critical condition

## Separate gunshot incidents kill 1, wound another

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three children died of smoke inhalation in Zarqa last Thursday, and their mother suffered first degree burns when their kerosene stove caught on fire, according to civil defence and police reports.

The mother (30), identified as Itaf A. Salem was filling the stove with kerosene while it was lit and it caught fire, burning the mother and most of her home's furnishing, a police report said.

Dareen (11), Heba (3) and Ghada (1) died due to asphyxiation while sleeping, according to the forensic doctor who examined the three children at Zarqa Military Hospital.

According to police reports the father of the children was in his shop at the time of the fire. He said his brother came to his shop to inform him of the accident.

As of Saturday evening, the mother was still listed in critical condition, a nurse at the hospital informed the Jordan Times.

The nurse said she does not expect the woman to live more than a week.

"She (Mrs. Salem) suffered first degree burns over 85 per cent of her body and I expect she will survive for only a week," she said.

"We have had similar cases

in which the patients die of blood poisoning because of the burns," the nurse explained.

Since the beginning of this year, civil defence officials responded to 48 fires caused by kerosene stoves, resulting in 24 injuries and five deaths, civil defence records showed.

"It is an unfortunate accident," a civil defence official told the Jordan Times.

"We have aired several instruction programmes on television and radio, and we have used the press to inform people, (especially housewives) on the safety measures to be taken when using kerosene stoves, but it doesn't seem that people are responding," the official said.

He urged the public to be more cautious and to follow safety procedures to prevent such incidents.

He said the most important safety measures people need to follow are keeping children away from stoves; not filling kerosene into a lit stove; cleaning the stove of any spillage after it is filled; keeping the stove away from flammable objects in the house; never leaving a lit stove unattended, never going to sleep with the stove lit and never using the stove for cooking.

Child kills mother by accident

A 29-year-old Madaba

woman was shot accidentally by her 10-year-old son while playing with his father's gun, died Thursday in Madaba Military Hospital, according to police reports.

The victim's husband told police he took the gun from a hidden place and placed it on the floor, adding that apparently his son picked up the gun and started playing with it when a bullet was fired accidentally at his wife.

The report did not indicate if the parents noticed that their son was playing with the gun or not.

Madaba hospital sources said the mother, identified only as M.A.M., died in the hospital the same day as a result of gunshot wounds to the chest.

Father accidentally shoots son

In another incident Thursday, a 23-year-old Ruseifeh man was listed in critical condition after being accidentally shot by his father, according to police reports.

The victim told police his father was cleaning his gun when a bullet was fired accidentally striking him in the chest.

The victim was rushed to Al Razi Hospital in Ruseifeh where he was listed in critical condition.

Police have seized the gun pending further investigation.



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## A life is taken, but that is not all

THE ASSASSINATION of Jordanian diplomat Nayeib Maaytah in Beirut Saturday is a cowardly attack that must be condemned by the entire international community and especially the Arab World. Even though the perpetrators have yet to be identified, all signs suggest that an extremist organisation from the Middle East region could be behind the killing. Several fanatical factions had already served notice that there is no limit to how far they will go to block the peace process. No less than 10 such groups have publicly declared their intentions to work against all participants in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Targeting Jordan could have been done simply to serve notice on all other Arab parties involved in the peace talks since Amman is, for all intents and purposes, behind the other Arab parties in their respective bilateral peace talks. Besides, Jordan has repeatedly assured all sides that it is totally committed to comprehensive peace and has purposely delayed any advancement in its peace negotiations until the other Arab negotiating teams achieve real progress.

Still the political ramifications of the killing of counsellor Maaytah with regard to the peace process are not the central issue. The first concern is Lebanese sovereignty and security. Beirut is responsible for the security of all diplomats serving on Lebanese soil. True the Lebanese government has been making determined efforts to restore law and order to the country; still greater efforts should have been exerted to protect diplomats stationed in Beirut, especially when it is common knowledge that peace talks could trigger a wave of violence in the area. Now that the life of a Jordanian diplomat was taken in broad daylight, it is incumbent on the Lebanese authorities to apprehend the culprits.

We can presume with confidence that the Lebanese security forces are capable of identifying the killer or killers. Perhaps the Syrian security forces could lend an effective hand in this direction since Syrian forces share the responsibility with their Lebanese counterparts to maintain internal and external security.

Jordan does not seek revenge. Jordan seeks effective redress by speedy punishment of those behind the killing as well as the person or persons who pulled the trigger. Jordan can also serve notice that its arm can be long in protecting its citizens and officials no matter where they may be. Jordan's sensibilities towards the others must not be misconstrued as a sign of weakness or impotence. Jordanians were shocked to see a renewal of the cycle of violence against their diplomats abroad and they are determined to meet this threat with effective counter action. We all speak with one voice: The assassination of Mr. Maaytah, will not derail us from our course and the enemies of life must be brought to justice.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily commented Saturday on the continued harassment of international shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba in the course of enforcing the U.N. sanctions on Iraq and the loss to the Jordanian economy. Jordan, said the paper, had no choice but to alert the international community to the severe damage caused to the Jordanian economy and to demand that such a practice in the Aqaba Gulf stop altogether and the Kingdom be compensated for its losses. This is exactly what Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali did when he presented Jordan's case before the U.N. Sanctions Committee, said the paper. The premier has presented the case, noting that Jordan has been committed to the sanctions and as a result it incurred heavy economic losses and continues to suffer. Hundreds of millions of dollars continue to be lost and great delay in the arrival of shipments via Aqaba continues unabated for no reason except that the United Nations wants to maintain the sanctions on Iraq, said the paper. It is time for the harassment of the Aqaba bound vessels, to stop and it is time for the U.N. to compensate the Kingdom for its heavy losses so that the country can go ahead with the process construction and democracy, demanded the paper. It said that it is time that the United Nations deal with Jordan on equal footing with the other neighbours of Iraq.

COMMENTING ON KING Hussein's meetings with the leaders of Jewish organisations in the United States, Taher Al Udwan said that the meeting can by no means be interpreted or considered as a form of peace nor can it by any way change the status quo. All the King's talk about his readiness to meet with the Israeli premier and the economic projects in the Jordan valley can only be done in the framework of peace under a new climate of stability and justice, said the writer. He said that Israel has been claiming that it was the Arabs who have "used to make peace with the Jewish state but the Arabs are...ing all measures designed to achieve peace."

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Taxes are necessary for the proper functioning of the government

Tax paying is not something we do with pleasure. All peoples of the world are fundamentally against taxes and tend to perceive taxes as excessive. The Jordanian people is no exception. But certain forces are doing their best to strengthen anti-tax sentiments beyond reason and turn them into a force to block tax reform.

It is a welcome notion to observe that the Chamber of Industry and, to a lesser degree, the chambers of commerce started to commission professionals to prepare research papers dealing with issues of vital interest to their members, provided of course that those researchers are not directed towards pre-determined conclusions.

Al Aswaa, a daily newspaper, published on Jan. 16, 1994 excerpts of a study sponsored by the Amman Chamber of Industry, aiming at highlighting the assumed excessiveness of the tax burden in Jordan. Part of the figures quoted by the newspaper would indicate the opposite, provided they are analysed honestly and objectively.

The fact that we have 29 different taxes and fees does not, in itself, prove that the tax burden is too heavy. The burden of 29 taxes can be lighter and better spread than the burden of one excessive tax. Part of the fees listed in the study represents prices of specific government services and should not count as part of the tax burden.

On the other hand, the researcher, who was not named by the newspaper, used 1988 as a reference year. This is not acceptable because under the circumstances of 1988 Jordan was exposed to a terrible economic crisis. The situation in 1988 was by no means ideal for us to want to preserve it. In fact, the fiscal and monetary situation was extremely bad and needed correction.

At one time, the deficit of the Jordanian budget, covered by foreign aid and loans, used to make up 50 per cent of the public expenditure. The question is whether we aim to keep that state of affairs. The answer, of course, is negative. But even if we like to carry on with such a huge deficit, we shall not

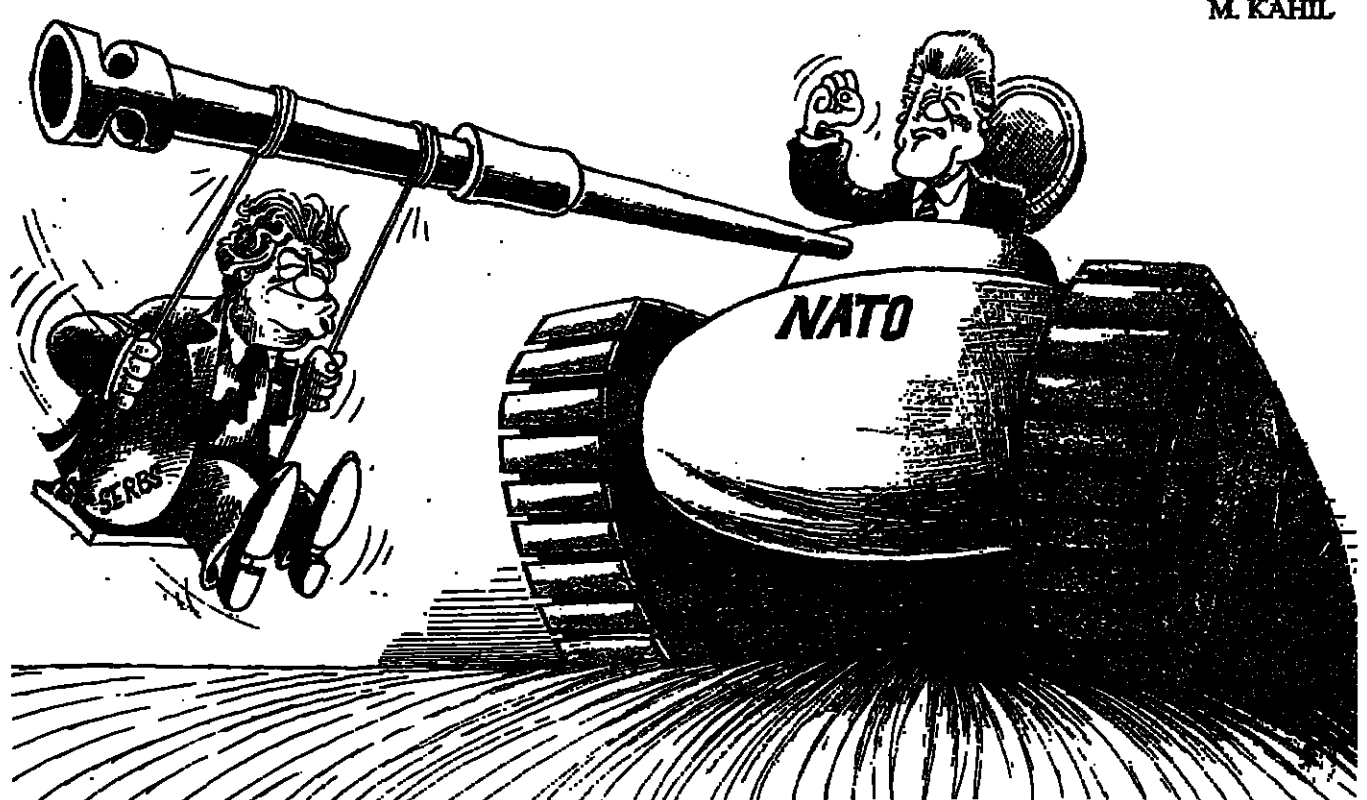
find foreign donors and lenders to continue financing our deficit for ever.

It is only normal for the tax burden, under the circumstances, to rise. Had the research proved that people's contribution to the budget rose in absolute or relative terms this would have only meant that things are going in the right direction. We definitely do not want to live on international charity.

The study points out that total taxes and fees rose from JD 800.9 million in 1992 to JD 824.2 million in 1993. If these figures are correct, the tax burden should have dropped by 7 per cent because income in current prices rose by 3 per cent only. Of course the taxes rose by more than these figures suggest because part of the taxes in 1992 were not of a recurring nature, such as customs on cars and equipment of the returnees from Kuwait, but the tax-take in gross domestic product (GDP) terms did not increase.

The study also says that taxes and fees amounted to 25 per cent of the GDP in Jordan in 1992, against 24 per cent in Tunisia and 23 per cent in Egypt in 1991. Even without checking these percentages, they indicate that the tax burden in Jordan is generally similar to that of Egypt and Tunisia. However, we should notice the trick of comparing Jordanian tax ratio of 1992 with the corresponding ratio in the other two countries in 1991. Perhaps 1991 was the last year with statistics available on Tunisia and Egypt but, had the researcher compared the ratio for the same year, namely 1991, he would have found that the tax burden in Jordan was the lowest, which shows that the author of the study was not honest in his analysis. He simply wanted to arrive at a pre-determined conclusion.

Taxes are necessary for the proper functioning of the government in discharging its duties and providing the expected services. To mobilise public opinion against taxes and exasperate anti-tax sentiments is neither constructive nor responsible.



## East Europeans should get a real West European 'yes' in 1994

By Timothy Garton Ash,  
Michael Mertes  
and Dominique Moisi

PARIS — At its Brussels summit, NATO promised more to East Central Europe than seemed likely before the Russian elections. The door to membership has been declared theoretically open; hints have been given as to how best to approach that door. But no clear conditions have been laid out for passing through it. This should be done sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile, it is worth reflecting on the complementary tasks and possibilities of the other great Brussels house, the European Union. For its founding fathers, the community was neither just a deluxe free trade area nor merely an association against the Soviet threat. Its most important purpose was to make war between Europeans impossible. Economic integration was a means to that higher political end.

With time, as often happens, the means have come to be taken for the end. The original end has been largely forgotten, partly because it has been achieved in Western Europe, that is, elsewhere in Europe we once again have wars.

The area was called East Central Europe — including Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, but with its own important set of diverse borderline cases, such as the Baltic states, Croatia and Romania — is both geographically and politically somewhere in between. Mourir pour Sarajevo? has become an all too real question, above all for those countries, including some East Central European states, with troops in the former Yugoslavia.

In the still fortunately hypothetical case of an acute external threat to the security of East Central Europe, we in the West, in NATO, would be called to give an answer far

more substantial than the Partnership for Peace or than that given in practice, so far, to martyred Bosnia. Meanwhile, in Western Europe, in the European Union, have political and economic means at our disposal to help ensure that the potential internal sources of insecurity in the region are diminished rather than exacerbated.

Two things, above all, need to be done. First, as a matter of urgency, ensure that West European markets are priced open for the goods that the East Central Europeans can export now. Continuation of fragile economic recovery depends on these exports, and consolidation of fledgling democracies depends on that recovery.

At the moment, we have a shameful protectionism,

**"They are told that they can hope to join the European Union only if they transform their economies, but they are denied the market access that alone would sustain that transformation. A perfect catch-22."**

whether against Polish textiles, Czech steel or Hungarian foodstuffs. We send those countries countless advisers to preach the virtues of the free market and free trade, but we do not practice what we preach. They are told that they can hope to join the European Union only if they transform their economies, but they are denied the market access that alone would sustain that transformation. A perfect catch-22.

It would be naive to pretend that this will be easy, at a time of acute recession.

Conventional wisdom suggests that it will cost jobs in Western Europe, but this is only half the truth. It fails to take account of the new export opportunities that a sustained recovery in the East would bring for West European producers.

In the longer term, opening Western Europe to the fresh breezes of low-wage competition should be part of the salutary shock needed to restore our competitiveness in a wider world. If the United States was right to embrace the North American Free Trade Agreement, then the European Union should welcome a NEFTA — a new European free trade area.

Secondly, the European Union should give more political substance to what is already understood to be an "engagement contract" with the East Central European states. In this respect, the Maastricht treaty is not just the end of an old road. It also contains elements of a new beginning, particularly with its explicit and implicit provisions for variable geometry.

For example, not all EU states will join in monetary union. Not all will participate in defence integration in the framework of the Western European Union. And there will be states, such as Turkey, which do not belong to the Union but are associate members of the WEU.

This new flexibility offers chances for developing the relationship with East Central Europe. In an article more than two years ago, we suggested that these states should be invited to participate directly in at least some of the foreign and security policy discussions of the European Community member states. The case for doing so has not grown any weaker. We also suggested that they should be given some way of being involved in the European elections of 1994, as

a trial run for full participation in those of 1999.

In thinking about the enlargement negotiations after 1995, one should reaffirm the principle of the primacy of politics which guided the founding fathers of the community. Especially with the new flexibility of the Union, it is not at all impossible to envisage full political membership together with long-term economic transition arrangements. We did it for Spain, Portugal and Greece. We did it in the very special case of the former East Germany. We could do it again.

A further consequence is that, in thinking about the future institutional and constitutional shape of the European Union, we must be thinking of arrangements that would work with 20 or more member states.

Last but not least, there is associate membership of the WEU — a bridge to the security which NATO is still so reluctant to offer.

Each one of these steps would help to combat the disillusionment with "Europe" that is now so palpable in countries that set out to "return to Europe" with so much hope and elan just four years ago. In those four years, our neighbours have grown used to hearing from us the "yes" which in reality means "no". In 1994, at least one of the two great Brussels houses should offer a "yes" that really means "yes."

Timothy Garton Ash is author most recently of "In Europe's Name: Germany and the Divided Continent." Michael Mertes is a senior adviser to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, writing here in a personal capacity. Dominique Moisi is deputy director of the Institut Français des Relations Internationales. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

## Brown sees hope for Mideast regional cooperation

By Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown suggested on Jan. 27 that a consensus is emerging in the Middle East about the need for regional cooperation in the pursuit of peace and economic development.

Commenting efforts to implement the accord signed last year by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Brown said: "I think there is a broad understanding that over the long term, this really is a regional problem — not just a problem of a peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis."

He was speaking to journalists at the Foreign Press Centre about a recent eight-day trip that took him to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Brown said his discussions with business executives, heads of state and other political leaders concentrated on "the connection between politics and economics, and what it's going to take, on a regional level, to create an environment where there can be economic growth."

In Israel he spent time with a new U.S.-based organisation called Builders For Peace, led by former U.S. Congressman Mel Levine and Jim Zogby, president of the Arab-American Institute. The organisation is identifying Arab-American and Jewish-American business leaders who are interested in doing business in the West Bank and Gaza.

"I thought that (Builders for Peace) was a very important breakthrough," Mr. Brown said, and one that "might serve as a model to create additional interest in commercial and economic development in those areas."

Commenting on reports that significant progress is being made by the Mideast working group on economic cooperation, Mr. Brown expressed hope that advances in that area "will help push the process forward on the political and security side."

Mr. Brown again indicated that the primary Arab economic boycott of Israel would probably stay in place, as one of the issues to be resolved through peace talks.

At the same time, he noted that the secondary and tertiary boycotts — which extend to non-Israeli firms — seem already to be "crumbling." Those aspects of the boycott will be on the agenda of the next Arab League ministerial meeting, Mr. Brown said, adding that Kuwait has already announced that it will not enforce the embargo and King Hassan of Morocco recently received a delegation of Israeli business leaders. "Commercial

activity is taking place right now," he observed.

Throughout his Middle Eastern tour, Mr. Brown said, he conveyed the U.S. view that the boycott is an anachronism and a hindrance to economic development — and one that should be lifted in its entirety. He told a reporter, however, that the possibility of U.S. retaliation against those that continue to enforce the embargo was "not discussed."

Asked to comment on the Clinton administration's policy on export controls, Mr. Brown said it was based on "common sense." The administration is "absolutely" committed to international arms control and to non-proliferation, but decided to relax export controls on items "that are generally available" on the open market, he said. One example he cited was that of communications satellites that are primarily used by weather services. Even for those items, "there are clearly destination exceptions," he stressed. "We do not say, sell anything, anywhere."

The secretary discussed other issues extending beyond the region, including the Commerce Department's recent identification of ten important and "emerging" markets for U.S. exports. That list includes India, Turkey, Indonesia and Poland, and identifies countries for which the Commerce Department will develop a specific export strategy.

"Too little attention has been given to India as a market," Mr. Brown said. "I intend to end that era of neglect, and give India significant attention in that regard."

He said that reforms in Poland to improve protection of intellectual property had been a factor in that country's inclusion on the Commerce Department list. The issue is "terribly important," Mr. Brown said, and one that U.S. businesses study closely before they are willing to invest in or trade with foreign countries.

The secretary stressed that the list should not be seen as a measure of the United States' interest in particular countries or regions. No Middle Eastern state is on the list, nor is Russia, although Washington's interest in both is undisputed. Mr. Brown said that his own travels to the Middle East attest to the importance the United States attaches to its commercial relations with the region.

He also discussed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, which is projected to reach \$60.0 million in 1994. The United States is "not pleased" with the status of the framework negotiations on that issue, he said. "We are still looking for a response from Japan," he said — United States Information Agency.

## When presidents need it, they declare a crisis

By Walter R. Meers  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an optimistic annual report, President Clinton deems the State of the Union to be good and improving under democratic management — but he can't afford to go without one crisis.

That would be health care. To win election-year action on that centrepiece proposal, the White House needs the urgency of crisis, which has become the odd shorthand in a debate over how much needs to be changed and how quickly.

In addition, Mr. Clinton's health care plan has been tangled in a dispute over welfare reform, which he also promised but has not yet sent to congress. Democratic leaders of the Senate and House say they can handle both this year, but there are sceptics. Congress seldom digests proposals so major so fast.

The White House declared health care reform to be Mr. Clinton's top domestic priority in 1994, but his campaign to get it done has been slipping. Critics, not all of them Republicans, now argue that there is no crisis demanding the complete overhaul Mr. Clinton wants. They advocate gradual change instead.

Nobody denies that there is a health care problem, go-slow Republicans say it is not of crisis proportions warranting a total overhaul. Democrats, like speaker Thomas S. Foley, counter that it certainly is a crisis, for the uninsured and because of the cost.

Boasting that the deficit is expected to be down, \$180 billion instead of \$300 billion

next year, Mr. Clinton said there must be health care reform to keep curbing deficits in the long haul.

So the president's State of the Union address to Congress and the nation, tonight is an opportunity to renew the health care push. But it isn't as easy as telling a Democratic Congress to get at it, in the fashion of a Lyndon B. Johnson pushing great society proposals. With budget barriers to new spending, party loyalties frayed and reelection campaigns bearing down, no president could send a catalogue of proposals and expect to see anything done about them.

There are competing and conflicting priorities among these Democrats, and rival health reform plans.

At the same time, Mr. Clinton must deal with his promise of welfare reform, which is popular with centrist and conservative Democrats and with Republicans, but worrisome to democratic liberals who don't want benefits cut.

Compounding that problem, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, wants welfare reform moved up the agenda, and has said he might hold health care hostage to get that done. Since his committee deals with both, he could do it.

First up, though, will be the crime Bill Clinton is urging Congress to enact swiftly. The Senate already has passed a crime measure that includes new gun controls and subsidies to help put 100,000 more police officers on the streets.

Mr. Clinton is expected to endorse provisions for life imprisonment of people convicted of three violent crimes.



## Diplomat assassinated

(Continued from page 1)

two years, much to the dissatisfaction of extremists and Muslim fundamentalists.

"This is a stab at Lebanon... (aimed at) destroying the return of stability and security," Mr. Bouez, the Lebanese foreign minister, said after seeing off Mr. Maaytah's body at Beirut airport.

Mr. Maaytah is survived by his wife and three children — two boys and a girl. He had been serving in Lebanon for about a year, handling mainly economic and administrative affairs. His family was in Jordan.

Mr. Maaytah was the first Jordanian diplomat to be killed in Lebanon. In 1981, the Jordanian charge d'affaires was kidnapped but was released a month later in Syria.

Saturday's attack also was the first assassination of a foreigner attached to a diplomatic mission in Beirut since 1989.

A Saudi working for the Saudi Arabian embassy was killed in Beirut in 1989. Two years earlier, two French embassy guards were killed in east Beirut. In 1986, the

French military attaché was shot dead near the embassy in east Beirut.

Almost the entire diplomatic corps fled the Lebanese capital during the 1975-90 civil war, when assassinations, hostage-taking and suicide bombing attacks became rampant.

In the past year, the government has intensified its campaign to lure foreigners back, claiming Beirut was now secure again.

Embassies have been trickling back since the Lebanese army disbanded and disarmed militias in Beirut and its environs in 1991.

Several Jordanian diplomats were assassinated between 1983 and 1985 in different world capitals, with most attacks claimed by the Palestinian group the Fateh Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal.

Jordan has ordered all its embassies to tighten security after the killing in Beirut on Saturday, officials said.

"This is a signal which we do not take lightly," an official told Reuters. He said embassies had been told to take maximum caution.

## Assassins will face justice

(Continued from page 1)

in the face of evildoers and criminals and would stand as a fortress and a united family in the face of adversity.

He was speaking in a statement to the press at the airport where he was at the head of Jordanian officials to receive the body of Mr. Maaytah.

The Prince warned: "Those who commit such crimes against innocent civilians will not escape punishment."

Jordan, he added, "will remain a united family and Jordanians will not bow to anyone but God."

Prince Hassan, who consoled the relatives of the deceased family at the airport, said Jordan would support all efforts aimed at uncovering the identity of the assassins.

The Lebanese government was very cooperative and was doing all it can to deal with the situation, he said.

"The crime proves once again that innocent people pay the price when the criminals remain at large. This situation is totally unacceptable to this country and we will do all we can to bring the criminals to justice," the Regent said.

Asked if the assassination was targeted against the peace process, the Regent said, "Certainly it was directed against everything and all the criteria of civilisation in the world."

Earlier in the day, Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar announced the death of Mr. Maaytah during an Upper House of Parliament meeting.

"A short while ago we received the news about the assassination..." he said.

"The treacherous hand behind the criminal act can never achieve its end of harming this country," he added.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the assassination as a heinous crime and stressed that the government would pursue all possible procedures to apprehend its perpetrators.

The Jordanian government condemns this criminal aggression," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"We will take the necessary steps to investigate the circumstances of the attack and pursue the terrorists and criminals responsible for this criminal act."

A delegation flew to Beirut to bring home the body of Mr. Maaytah, a career diplomat and a father of three posted to Lebanon last February.

Acting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Fawaz Abul Ghanam received a telephone call from his Lebanese counterpart Fariz Bouez offering condolences to the Jordanian government and people as well as the bereaved Maaytah family.

"The killing is a tragedy and a stab at efforts of the Lebanese government to achieve stability in Lebanon," Mr. Bouez said. Dr. Abul Ghanam received another call from Lebanese Interior Minister Bishara Mirhaj who also expressed sympathy stressing that the Lebanese authorities would spare no effort in uncovering the identity of the assassins.

Dr. Abul Ghanam later summoned Lebanese Ambassador Ahmad Ibrahim and requested that the Lebanese government undertake the necessary investigations to uncover the identity of the assassins and to take measures to ensure the security of Jordanian diplomats in Lebanon.

Mr. Mirhaj also called his

Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad, expressing grief and sympathy. He briefed Mr. Hammad on the steps taken by the Lebanese government to deal with the situation and to uncover the identity of the assassins.

Receiving the body of Mr. Maaytah were also His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Cabinet members, the King's advisors, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, several members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and the Lebanese ambassador.

Senator Hammad Al Maaytah described the deceased as "one of the homeland's martyrs who sacrificed their blood for its sake."

Thousands of citizens, relatives of the deceased, his friends, and government officials were also at the airport to receive the body, which was taken to Al Hussein Medical Centre from where it will be taken to the funeral Sunday.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri meanwhile condemned the killing, describing it as a criminal act.

"The martyrdom of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah is but a new sacrifice offered by the citizens of Jordan to protect its blessed march," he said.

"The evil, terrorist hands that committed the act should be cut and punished and such ugly terrorist deeds will not affect the steadfastness of Jordan," he added.

Mr. Masri, who served as prime minister and earlier as foreign minister, said he knew Mr. Maaytah "as a pious and hard working man who performed his duty towards his homeland in silence."

The wife of the deceased, Hanan, said her husband had faith in God and in his homeland, and was an example in his true sense of belonging to his people and allegiance to King Hussein.

"Abu Zeid was a member of the people of Jordan, this country which they have targeted repeatedly but failed. Jordan will always remain steadfast as the mountains of Moab, Al Sharah, Umm Qais, Ajloun and Zai," she said.

She said her husband was a proponent of a message, Arab in its goals and Islamic in its roots. "This message will be carried after him by his children, who are all the children of this land, the children of Al Hussein," she said.

Mr. Maaytah was born in Karak in Aug. 31, 1951. He was appointed at the foreign ministry as an attaché Oct. 27, 1974. He served at Jordanian missions in Santiago, Kuwait, Jeddah, Cairo, and Baghdad.

The Public Freedoms Committee at the Lower House also condemned the crime.

## Expectations low in Davos

(Continued from page 1)

Posh Seehof hotel late afternoon. He went in through a garage entrance to reporters and television crews crammed in the entrance area. Mr. Peres is staying at the same hotel.

Before leaving his headquarters in Tunis, Mr. Arafat held a pre-dawn meeting with the PLO Executive Committee then met with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis to request American help in ending the deadlock with Israel. The PLO news agency Wafa said.

Wafa said Mr. Arafat re-

peated his accusation that Israel was creating obstacles in the implementation of the accord.

Mr. Peres said on the eve of the talks that he came to Davos "with a desire to sign" an agreement, "but it can very well be that there will only be the opportunity to talk."

"We are holding negotiations on sensitivities, on nationalities, very difficult sensitivities," Mr. Peres said. "Every word has a different echo."

## Three years later, Gulf people and environment still suffer from 'he legacy' of the war

By Michael Jansen

Three years after the U.S.-led coalition drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait, the 43 day war still takes a toll on the people and environment of the Gulf states and Iraq.

Little or nothing has been done to repair the destruction wrought by the presence of vast armies and armadas in an area where the ecological balance between man and a desert environment is particularly delicate or to clean up after a massive military campaign.

Although climatologists predicted that soot and smoke released by blazing oil wells could, in a month, shade more than a fifth of the earth's surface and disrupt the Asian monsoon, this did not happen, even when Kuwait's wells burnt for nine months late last year.

Some 720 of Kuwait's 900 oil wells capable of production sustained damage during the war, the majority set on fire by explosive charges set by withdrawing Iraqi troops but many torched by coalition air raids and artillery bombardments. Although these fires were extinguished by November, the wells burned a billion barrels of crude, emitting a 15,000-square-kilometre cloud of smoke and toxic, carcinogenic chemicals. Tonnes of sulphur and nitrogen oxide turned into nitric and sulphuric acids and fell to the earth as acid rain on Iraq, Kuwait, Iran and Turkey.

This acidity has, in the short term at least, changed the chemical composition of topsoil in these countries. Furthermore, burning crude produced metal residues and hydrocarbons which fell on these countries and Saudi Arabia.

The burning wells also emitted clouds of oil droplets and plumes of soot which fell onto the surface of the desert and the waters of the Gulf. While the wells burned, oil and soot coated livestock and smothered vegetation, and since there was no real clean up campaign after the fires were put out, these residues still blanket the countryside, poisoning crops and grazing animals like sheep and goats.

In some localities the deposits are two inches thick. Wells which spewed oil without burning were more destructive than those that burned because they flooded 60 per cent of Kuwait with tens of millions of barrels of crude. And more than six million barrels of oil flowed into the shallow waters of the already oil-polluted Gulf, causing severe marine pollution.

Although the full extent of

the damage caused by the 1991 spill could not be measured because there had been no previous surveys of the Gulf, a team of scientists taking part in an expedition mounted by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported 16 months after the spill that in deeper Gulf waters marine life had begun to recover and procreate. One of the scientists involved, however, believed there had been a "permanent change" in the ecology of that semi-enclosed body of water.

Today, thick sludge lies along hundreds of miles of Gulf shoreline and on the bed of the Gulf, continuing to suffocate coral and kill marine life. The coastal states did not mount a massive clean-up campaign in the Gulf because they claimed currents from the open sea would clean the Gulf in three to five years. But scientists like Dr. Farouk Al Baz, of the Centre for Remote Sensing of Boston University, contradict this claim on the ground that replacement water slowly enters the Gulf towards the top, not along the bottom where the sludge rests, making it "difficult to cleanse the Gulf water naturally."

The limited clean-up campaign conducted by the Gulf states caused new problems. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar concentrated on clearing-up spills near desalination plants, providing 70-80 per cent of their drinking water. They used floating booms to protect the intakes of these plants then skimmed oil from the surface and dumped it into depressions and shallow pools onshore. To these sticky masses of crude emitting noxious fumes along the shores must be added vast lakes of crude spilled from the gushing wells. Not only do these deposits harm any insect, animal or human being coming into contact with them but also they threaten to pollute underground aquifers which sustain all life in the region.

Very little publicity has been given to the most widespread form of environmental disruption caused by the Gulf conflict. This is the destruction of the fragile surface of the desert caused by the massing, in a sparsely populated area, of more than three-quarters of a million men and the prosecution of a war. It would seem that mankind has learnt little from the destruction wrought in the deserts of North Africa by the campaigns of World War I and II.

The fragile, stabilising layer of pebbles on the surface of the desert, called the

"desert pavement" or the "desert shield", was widely disrupted by the presence of troops, their movements and the digging of trenches and building of earthworks in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The destruction of the "shield" exposed lower layers of sand and dust to wind erosion, producing sand storms and shifting dunes which threaten towns, roads and airports.

Underground water reservoirs were polluted with sewage and toxic waste (such as paint, pesticides, oils and fuels and the substance known as "DS2" for decontaminating chemical weapons). The forces also deposited on the surface of the desert vast mountains of refuse and garbage, including non-degradable plastic and metallic materials, wrecked vehicles, spare parts, plastic water bottles and food and drink tins.

Finally, thousands of casualties among human beings and livestock have been caused by unexploded bombs and bomblets from cluster bombs, from mines and live bullets which still litter the desert and take their toll long after the fighting ended.

Members of the Gulf war coalition have managed to keep quiet about other adverse consequences of the campaign. Dr. Eric Hoskins, a Canadian member of the Harvard University medical team which undertook public health research in Iraq after the war, broke the story in an article published in "The International Herald Tribune" in January 1993. He said that depleted uranium residue from armour piercing anti-tank shells created both radiation and chemical hazards for human beings and animals, particularly in southern Iraq. These deposits of uranium, he wrote, "may have already contaminated soil and drinking water" leaving a dangerous legacy for future generations. Doctors in the U.S. have been investigating mysterious illnesses among American veterans of the Gulf conflict and physicians at Baghdad's main pediatric hospitals report a rising incidence of birth defects among children born in the war zone in southern Iraq.

These ecological and public health problems were an unintentional but predicted byproduct of the war. But there was also the intentional assault on Iraq's physical, economic, cultural and human environment. And this continues and is compounded by the coalition-dominated U.N. imposed sanctions regime.



A Kuwaiti oil tanker hit by Gulf warfare (File photo)

The Tigris-Euphrates river system, the cradle of Iraq's ancient civilisation, has been seriously polluted because of coalition bombing of Iraq's electricity-generating and water and sewage treatment plants. The prohibition of chemicals for the treatment of sewage under the sanctions regime prevents the restoration of these facilities to pre-war levels and exacerbates the pollution problem, particularly in the south of the country, in the marshlands and the Basra area which lie downstream from Iraq's main cities. Untreated sewage dumped into the rivers by these cities pours into the Gulf.

The West took another political decision which could

have a devastating impact on the environment when it decided to support the Iraqi opposition-in-exile, one faction of which consists of Iranian-sponsored Shiite rebels who have taken refuge in the vast marshlands of the south. In order to put an end to the rebellion by depriving the guerrillas of their wetland cover and their physical connection with Iraq, Baghdad has drained 40-60 per cent of the marshes which have been a factor in the ecology of the region since history was first recorded.

Thus, the coalition "victory" against Iraq has brought desolation to the fragile environment of the Gulf as well as deprivation and

death to the people of Iraq. Having conquered, the coalition departed. An American environmentalist with 30 years experience in advocacy said that the coalition simply followed the usual practice of the first world which, traditionally, wreaked havoc in the Third World and then abandoned its handiwork.

leaving the hapless governments and people of the affected areas to clear up as best they can. The United Nations Environment Programme has called upon governments to develop an effective mechanism to respond in the future to such man-made environmental disasters, but so far this call has received scant support.



Drawing water from a lagoon built to fight the fires (File photo)

## Academy of science calls for urgent action on plutonium

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — More than 50 tonnes of excess weapons-grade plutonium resulting from the dismantlement of many thousands of nuclear weapons present "a clear and present danger" to international security that must be dealt with promptly, a U.S. National Academy of Sciences study warns.

"None of the options yet identified for managing this material can eliminate the danger; all they can do is to reduce the risks," said Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences, in a statement on the committee findings.

The study, on "The Management and Disposition of Excess Weapons Plutonium," was prepared by the academy's standing Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC) at the request of the National Security Council. It concludes that improved global safeguards and security are "urgently needed" for not only excess weapons plutonium but also the hundreds of tonnes of civilian plutonium mounting worldwide as a by-product of nuclear power.

"We recommend that the United States pursue new agreements to ensure that all civil fissile materials worldwide are under safeguards, with stringent standards of security and accounting," Wolfgang K.H. Panofsky, professor and director emeritus of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre who led the study, said in a Jan. 24 briefing about the findings of the year-long project.

"Materials in the former

Soviet Union pose a particular danger because of the ongoing political, social, and economic upheavals there," he said.

Mr. Panofsky said the committee recommends using this imminent danger as an opportunity "to set a standard of improved security and accounting that would be applied to all fissile materials worldwide."

Excess weapons-grade plutonium constitutes only a small part of the global plutonium stock, which includes many hundreds of tonnes of plutonium spent fuel, almost 90 tonnes of separated civilian plutonium, plutonium in scrap and residues, and other materials, he pointed out.

Although reactor-grade plutonium differs significantly from weapons-grade plutonium, the report stresses its easy convertibility into weapons. "Even the relatively simple designs, such as that used in the Nagasaki weapon, are within the capabilities of many nations and possibly some subnational groups," the report points out, urging that overall control standards for reactor-grade plutonium be reassessed.

Other committee members at the briefing were John P. Holdren, professor of energy at Berkeley, Catherine McArdle Kelleher, senior fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution and Spurgeon M. Keeney, Jr., president of the Arms Control Association.

"This issue is of such high priority that it requires leadership coming from the highest level" of government, Ms. Kel-

ley stressed. "Until that critical decision is made at the highest level, the basis for determining policy will not be in place," she said.

Mr. Panofsky said the breakup of the Soviet Union vastly complicates the entire process, creating risks that nuclear weapons and materials could "fall into the hands of unauthorised parties." Current economic and social turmoil could lead to theft, bribery or corruption at nuclear material sites, he warned.

The report calls attention to several cases of uranium thefts that have been confirmed by responsible Russian officials, including one theft of weapons-grade material. "This is a pressing problem for international security," Mr. Panofsky said.

"Managing, securing and accounting for these materials — when even a grapefruit-sized ball, weighing only several kilograms, is enough to make a nuclear bomb — will be a monumental task."

Plutonium poses special difficulties, he said, because, unlike highly enriched uranium, it cannot be easily "blended down" to a proliferation-resistant form, and it cannot compete economically in the current market for nuclear fuels.

The report, adopted unanimously by the Academy's 16-member committee, covers three stages of the process of reductions: dismantlement of nuclear weapons, intermediate storage of the resulting fissile materials, and long-term disposition of materials, as well as a transparency regime designed to apply to all nuclear weapons and fissile materials in all of these stages.

It also recommends immediate action "at the highest levels of government" that would lead to safe storage of nuclear weapons materials in the short term, coupled with new agreements on wide-ranging information exchanges and monitoring to accurately account for nuclear weapons.

For the longer term, the report urges that options for the disposition of plutonium be designed to meet a "spent-fuel standard," making this plutonium as difficult to acquire and make from weapons as the much larger growing amounts of plutonium in spent-fuel from civilian reactors worldwide. This should be done as quickly as possible, while maintaining the strictest standards of accounting and security and ensuring protection for the environment, public safety and health.

Although none of the available options meet perfectly these long-term objectives, Mr. Panofsky said, among the most promising technologies clearly in sight is "vitrification" — a way of processing the material into "glass logs" that contain high-level radioactive wastes, making it difficult to recover for use in weapons.

A second option would be to bury the plutonium in boreholes several kilometres beneath Earth's surface, an option that has been less studied but that may turn out to be comparably attractive, Mr. Panofsky said.

The report says that new, advanced nuclear reactors would not be necessary for weapons plutonium disposition, but adds that the need to deal with excess weapons plutonium should not drive decisions concerning the future of nuclear power.

"We have concluded that advanced reactors should not be specifically developed or built for transforming weapons plutonium into spent fuel, because that aim can be achieved more rapidly, less expensively, and more surely by using existing or evolutionary reactor types," Mr. Panofsky explained.

He said that for security, environmental and other practical reasons, the committee ruled out a wide array of technologies that has been proposed for plutonium disposition, from underground explosions to launching material into space.

"Even the best of the disposition methods cannot make a significant dent in the stockpiles of excess plutonium for more than a decade — maybe beyond," Mr. Panofsky said. "Thus the world is condemned to 'baby-sit' this dangerous stockpile for many years to come. We believe the U.S. government should elevate the priority given to these issues" — United States Information Agency.



# GATT chief urges new grouping for world economic cooperation

WASHINGTON (R) — World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Peter Sutherland urged creation of a new grouping involving leading developed and developing countries in international economic cooperation.

Sutherland, who heads the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), stated the body should replace the Western-dominated Group of Seven "widely criticized for leaving new economic powers out of key decision-making."

"We cannot continue with a group of the world's people excluded from global economic management," declared Mr. Sutherland, who will head the World Trade Organisation (WTO) due to be created in

should be closely involved.

Mr. Sutherland, whose criticism of the Group of Seven received backing at the same forum session from top United States economic analyst C. Fred Bergsten, said premiers, trade and finance ministers of the new grouping should meet regularly.

Institutional support would be provided by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the WTO — whose creation as a more powerful replacement for the GATT was agreed in the Uruguay Round trade talks which ended last month.

"Setting up such a forum is the logical next step in the development of global economic cooperation for which the success of the Uruguay Round has done so much," the GATT chief said.

"It is the next challenge of international economic leadership — the challenge of translating the common interest in global growth into a practical and effective mechanism for solving our common economic problems together," he pointed out.

The Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada, France and Britain — has held annual summits since the mid-1970s to take decisions on the world economy, but has come under fire as its members' own economies have faltered.

Mr. Sutherland said the question had to be asked whether the Group of Seven, the Paris-based OECD and re-

gional groupings were adequate to provide effective cooperation in a rapidly-changing world.

"The fact is that the countries which will increasingly provide our best hope for economic growth and new markets are simply not represented where it counts most," the 47-year-old GATT chief, known for his tough-talking, told the forum.

Mr. Bergsten, director of the Washington Institute for International Economics and a former assistant treasury secretary, echoed Mr. Sutherland's strictures. The Group of Seven, he said, had failed totally in the past year to improve the world economy.

Recalling that he told the forum in the Swiss mountain resort just 12 months ago that the Group of Seven was dead, he declared: "Unfortunately, that epitaph must be repeated today."

Mr. Bergsten said that Japan and the United States must cooperate to strengthen the yen.

He said the previous rise of the yen, reaching a peak in mid-1993, had promised a substantial reduction in Japan's global and bilateral payments surpluses.

"About half of that improvement has been lost with the renewed yen depreciation (over recent months)," he told the annual World Economic Forum in Davos.

Mr. Sutherland said the question had to be asked whether the Group of Seven, the Paris-based OECD and re-

reverse the fall of the yen in the same way that the United States intervened to stop the steady rise of the yen just before it reached 100:1 (against the dollar) last August," he emphasised.

He said Japan's adoption of an effective fiscal stimulus would help achieve the needed currency turnaround. Plans for such a package have been delayed after political reforms proposed by the government were rejected by the upper house.

Mr. Bergsten said it was necessary to engineer a modest appreciation of the yen and then minimise the risk of future depreciation by setting a "target zone or reference range between 100:1 and 110:1" against the dollar.

Mr. Bergsten said the U.S.-Japan bilateral dispute over Tokyo's huge trade surplus was the major trade problem facing the world in 1994. It could escalate sharply in the very near future and could precipitate the next international trade crisis.

"The American trade deficit will probably reach a record level (more than \$160 billion) in 1994," he said.

"This is not because of any renewed deterioration of America's underlying competitive position, which is in fact improving as indicated by the continuing rapid growth of productivity in manufacturing and by the five-year programme adopted by Congress to cut the budget deficit in half," he said.

## Dow Jones climbs to new high

NEW YORK (AFP) — Blue-chip share prices were lifted by a report showing strong U.S. economic growth, propelling the Dow Jones industrial average to its 11th record of 1994.

The Dow index of leading industrial stocks jumped 19.13 points to close at 3,945.43 on a surge of investor optimism after the government reported fourth-quarter economic growth at a rate of 5.9 per cent.

Trading on the New York Stock Exchange was heavy with some 312 million issues changing hands, and winners outpacing losers nearly two to one: 1,302 up, 760 down and 671 unchanged.

The government's report on the gross domestic product was the best in six years, and it surpassed analysts' predictions of 5.5 per cent growth.

The rosy GDP figures bolstered by a modest inflation rate of 1.3 per cent against 1.6 per cent for the second and third quarters of 1993, helped to buoy the stock market.

On the bond market, the interest rate on the benchmark 30-year treasury bonds fell to 6.21 per cent against 6.26 per cent on Thursday.

Larry Wachtel of Prudential Securities said the broad rise in the market was a sign of overall strength in stocks, not merely several rising stocks pulling up the Dow average.

"I think the market is finally realising, if you do not overheat the economy, and it is steady growth, then it is a big plus," said Nelson Gold of Interstate Johnson Lane.

## U.S. economy grows at fastest rate in six years

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. economic growth surged to a 5.9 per cent annual rate in the last three months of 1993, the best in six years, paced by a consumer spending spree on homes and big ticket goods such as autos.

The advance in the gross domestic product (GDP), the total of all goods and services produced in the United States, was the best since the fourth quarter of 1987 — when Ronald Reagan was president and 2½ years before the start of the 1990-91 recession.

"You can't get much more solid and steady growth than that," Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told the U.S. conference of mayors.

At the White House, spokesman Mark Gearan said, "we're delighted. I think the choices made for the economic plan last year resulted in lower interest rates and this beginning sign of an economic recovery."

According to a preliminary report Friday from the Commerce Department, spending on durable goods, including autos, furniture and appliances, rose at a robust 14.3 per cent annual rate.

That helped produce a healthy four per cent increase overall in consumer spending, which accounted for roughly two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Housing construction, spurred by mortgage rates near 25-year lows, advanced at a 31.7 per cent rate. Economists said much of the other consumer spending was fuelled by purchases of goods to put in newly purchased homes.

The phenomenal growth occurred at the same time that a measure of inflation tied to the GDP sank to the lowest level since 1967.

For the year, GDP was 2.9 per cent higher than 1992, the best gain in five years.

The latest quarterly rate was even stronger than the 5.5 per cent predicted in advance by

many economists and it surpassed the 5.7 per cent rate a year earlier, when a bubble of optimism around the election of President Clinton fuelled a consumer buying binge.

Many analysts expect the latest rush of economic activity to fade somewhat, but not as severely as the relapse recorded at the start of 1993, which saw a barely noticeable 0.8 per cent growth rate in the first quarter.

"I think we're going at a pace which is not going to be sustainable but it does not mean we're going to fall into the same sort of situation that occurred a year ago when we hit the wall," said economist Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

He and other economists expect roughly a three per cent growth rate in the current quarter, not a gangbusters pace but still respectable.

In addition to housing and consumer spending, growth was propelled in the fourth quarter by a huge 21 per cent advance in business investment in new buildings and equipment, the best since 1978.

Purchases of computers and other efficiency-enhancing equipment rose at a 24.6 per cent rate. Even the long-moribund commercial construction sector advanced, at a 10.7 per cent rate.

Government purchases and trade detracted from growth.

Also, the fourth-quarter growth rate was somewhat exaggerated by the way the government measured the effects of last summer's floods in the Midwest and drought in the southeast.

Crop losses took 0.6 percentage points off the overall third-quarter growth rate, reducing it to 2.9 per cent. The absence of the losses in the fourth quarter added 0.4 percentage points to the latest quarterly rate.

Even though the overall GDP advance in the fourth quarter was large, the recovery — now nearly three years old — has been weak by historical standards.

The Commerce Department said economic output has increased 7.7 per cent since the end of the recession in March 1991. That's only half the average gain of 15.4 per cent during the same period of past expansions since 1960.

Looking ahead, economists believe consumer spending, which represents roughly two-thirds of economic activity, will continue to grow, but not quite so robustly.

According to Evelina Tainer of Prime Economic Consulting in Chicago, the pattern of consumer spending shows underlying caution stemming from the fact that income growth has not kept up with spending growth, forcing consumers to finance much of their spending.

"We did have a good holiday season... but people are buying necessities, not luxuries. The spending isn't frivolous and that indicates people are still very unsure," she said.

In addition, economists don't know yet precisely how much this month's deep freeze in the east and Midwest and the Los Angeles earthquake will detract from first-quarter growth.

## Bankamerica to buy Continental Bank for \$1.9b

NEW YORK (AFP) — Bankamerica Corp., in a surprise move, announced plans Friday to acquire Continental Bank of Chicago in a cash and stock deal valued at \$1.9 billion.

The deal would be Bankamerica's first major acquisition since its mega-merger with First Pacific Bank in 1991.

The San Francisco-based Bankamerica, the nation's largest banking company, and Continental, the nation's 33rd largest, said in a joint statement that the merger would create a new banking giant.

There is a superb fit between the two organisations," said Richard Rosenberg, Bankamerica's chairman and chief executive. "We complement each other remarkably in terms of business lines, geographic sheets, and geographic presence."

Banking industry analysts were impressed with the com-

bination, saying it will strengthen Bankamerica's presence in the Midwest.

"It's a good deal for Bankamerica," said David Berry, research director at Keefe Bruyette and Woods, a New York-based brokerage firm.

Bankamerica said the merger would allow it to strengthen its presence in banking for middle and large sized corporations, which has been Continental's specialty.

Continental has undergone a remarkable transition in recent years. The bank was rescued from the brink of failure by federal bank regulators in May 1984. A rumour carried on a small Japanese news service that Continental was struggling with a cash-flow crisis touched off what was the largest bank run in history at the time. Continental lost \$1.16 billion.

Since then, Continental drastically trimmed the size of its business and focused on corporate banking. The man credited with engineering that turnaround, Continental Chairman Thomas Theobald, will step down after completion of the merger, which is expected sometime this sum-

mer, bank spokesmen said.

Continental is now Chicago's second largest bank.

"In addition to its strong market position in the Chicago area, Continental has deep relationships with corporations across the country, especially among privately held companies," Mr. Rosenberg said.

The banks said they expected moderate cost savings from the merger, which would require approval from state and federal regulators.

The banking companies said they expect to eliminate between 500 to 800 full-time equivalent jobs through the merger as offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and other major cities are combined.

Devaluation forces Turkish banks to change gear

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish banks, reeling from a lira devaluation which erased 1993 profits overnight, will now have to settle for a painful restructuring of their balance sheets to stay afloat, bankers and analysts said Friday.

The banking sector, which had short positions of a \$5 billion, lost about \$600 million when the central bank knocked 11.97 per cent off the dollar value of the lira Wednesday night.

"Banks will need to restructure their balance sheets," said Metin Berk, chief executive officer at Birlesik Yatirim Banki.

The lira came under fire last week when excess liquidity flowed into foreign currency. It has shed 16.6 per cent of its dollar value this month, com-

pared to 49.3 per cent in 1993.

The central bank intervened several times this week to defend the lira but failed to quench demands for the dollar.

Turkish banks had been expanding the share of foreign funds in their liabilities as the lira eroded more or less in line with inflation in recent years, but central bank measures aimed at propping up the lira may now force them to hit reverse gear.

To boost lira deposits, the central bank imposed a 22 per cent liquidity requirement on a non-deposit liabilities such as foreign currency debts and asset-backed securities. This requirement will rise to 27 per cent after five months.

It also raised its rediscount rate to 54 per cent from 48 and abolished reserve require-

ments.

"Banks will start gradually square their short dollar positions and this will create a huge demand for lira," said banking professor Seluk Abac. "Lira deposits will be the star again."

Banks have already jacked up deposit rates by up to 15 points, offering 88 to 95 per cent for one-year funds but economists say this is just the start of deposit rate rises.

"These rates are temporary. We may need a few other revisions," said Ibrahim Betil, general manager of Bankeskis.

Total lira deposits declined 15 per cent in real terms last year to 251 trillion (\$14.3 billion), while the share of foreign currency deposits rose to 65 per cent of total deposits from 52.

In 1993 banks issued 40 trillion lira (\$2.2 billion) worth of asset-backed securities, exempt from reserve requirements.

Mr. Abac predicted that the devaluation and central bank measures to back the lira could bankrupt some small banks which have relied heavily on foreign currency funds.

"The return on equities was already below inflation in the past five years. This is a new blow to the sector," he said.

"Some banks will be in deep trouble," said Michel Martinovitch, general manager of Credit Lyonnais in Istanbul.

Bad loans will be another snag. A tumbling stock market may force brokers to reschedule their loans from banks, Mr. Abac said.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Handle practical affairs at home and make this a most productive day. Be sure to show more cooperation with family members who are trying to adjust to some new circumstances that concern you both.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is not a good day to spend a great deal of money for recreation, so be sure you do something constructive to better your financial position.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Greater success in your work can be yours in the future if you use this day to contact informally higher-ups who have power over your affairs.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You will get a great many interesting ideas from those you encounter if you busy yourself with shopping, keeping appointments at beauty or barber shop, etc.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be sure you don't permit business associates to come together with personal friends, or you accomplish very little, either materially or socially.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) An associate may argue seriously with a higher-up, but be sure you don't become involved, or you get into trouble which could hurt your reputation.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Concentrate upon using more modern systems in the future so that you have greater benefits. Get today's duties done quickly and go off on a tangent.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get rid of all that depression about you by indulging in gay and happy recreations that are not expensive and are wholesome and satisfying.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A close tie is irked over an associate with whom you seem to be spending too much time. Be loyal and show that family comes first with you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Today's business duties outside of the home should be handled very efficiently today, as well as professional appointments kept, etc.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) By handling important material affairs early, you will then have time to get out into the bustling social world where fine new contacts can be made.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be sure you put home and family first today and forego that new and overglittering attraction in the outside world that is not worthwhile.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Private worries could make you quite miserable now, if you permit. Busy yourself helping others, garnering information you need, reading your paper, getting good ideas for the future, etc.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"He's never in a romantic mood because of his allergies. He's allergic to emotions!"

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, place one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DURIL  
SHAQU  
ROESIE  
SWORDY

WHAT THE COWBOY BOUGHT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: MAJOR WHILE SPEEDY BOYISH

Answer: What a pun-filled theater production is called — A PLAY ON WORDS

### Peanuts

OKAY, KID, IT'S STOPPED RAINING, AND YOU GOT TWO STRIKES AGAINST YOU!

TIME OUT! ONE OF MY PLAYERS WANTS TO TALK TO ME...

THEY'RE HAVING A CONFERENCE, AREN'T THEY? THEY'RE PLANNING SOME CLEVER STRATEGY... I JUST FEEL IT...

NO, LAST NIGHT YOU HAD YOUR SUPPER IN THE RED DISH AND WATER IN THE YELLOW DISH...

### Andy Capp

AIN'T ENDS SAYS SHE BOOVED EVERY MINUTE OF HER TRIP TO RUSSIA — IT'S A PLACE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE

READ IT Y'SELF, PET, I'VE GOT TO GET READY. RUSSIA WILL BE HERE IN A MINUTE

SHE'D LOVE TO GO TO RUSSIA — IF SHE COULD GET BACK THE SAME DAY FOR BINGO

### Mutt'n' Jeff

THIS MAN I'M WAITING ON NOW IS A LITTLE BIT GROSS, BUT I HOPE HE LIKES HIS STEAK SANDWICH!

YESSIR! DID YOU TASTE THE CHARCOAL FLAVOR, SIR?

VEH! I TASTED THE CHARCOAL FLAVOR! NOW SEE IF YOU CAN BRING ME ONE WITH A LITTLE MEAT FLAVOR!

GOSH! IT AIN'T MY FAULT IF THE CHEF GORRINED IT A LITTLE!

HEY STUPID, YOU'VE GOT YOUR THUMB ON MY STEAK!

YES SIR!

I DIDN'T WANT IT FALLIN' ON THE FLOOR AGAIN LIKE THE FIRST ONE DID!

### THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Romantic tale
- 6 Dull sound
- 10 Quick blow
- 14 Indo-European
- 15 Wife of Zeus
- 16 Yarn
- 17 Carpenter's par
- 20 Sheep
- 21 Charge for passage
- 22 Assessed
- 23 Anna's milieu
- 24 Of docile manner
- 26 Apothecary's pill
- 31 Moving unsteadily
- 34 Montard or Saint Laurent
- 35 Came in first
- 36 Tightly drawn
- 37 Misrepresented
- 39 Odd one
- 40 "— a boy"
- 41 Macchia's son
- 42 Velvety fabric
- 43 Taylor's pair
- 47 Deserve
- 48 Love god
- 49 Pump and trogon
- 52 Sharp
- 53 Uncle —
- 56 Soviet park
- 60 Wings
- 61 Mending
- 62 Clamor
- 63 Animal group
- 64 — of (furious)
- 65 "Waiting for —" (Beckett)

DOWN

- 1 Arrived
- 2 Lined up
- 3 Pie of
- 4 Snitcher
- 5 First
- 6 Mrs. Tack
- 7 Restore to
- 8 Kappa subject
- 9 Family member
- 10 Meat cuts
- 11 Desire
- 12 Lily plant
- 13 Care for
- 18 Fly high
- 19 Kimer poem
- 23 Let's stand!
- 24 1500
- 25 Fencer's blade
- 26 Morning song
- 27 Emulate Cleora
- 32 Terminated
- 37 South African
- 38 Unbridled enthusiasm
- 39 Drivers' spots
- 41 Bored stiff
- 42 Making a call
- 43 Considered
- 45 Conveyed
- 46 Regally
- 48 — Dan
- 49 Iran ruler, once
- 50 Sound in body
- 51 Gen Bradley
- 52 Band or high start
- 53 Small platform
- 54 In addition
- 55 Convert
- 56 Decay
- 58 Ripen
- 59 Loving sound

Puzzle Solved:

ARE BOISIN PLOIN  
FINGERPAINTING  
INTENSIFICATION  
MIA ORE AIME  
BULE ORO CHAMIE  
VIRIA ORO CHAMIE  
SIOA AIA UOO  
VULNERABLE  
NOVA ERB SPUR  
EPIGRAPHIC ALE  
VIAPOA ALE ALE  
THAP ALE ALE  
STIRIDOR ALE ALE  
SIAH ALE ALE ALE  
VIBET ALE ALE



## Sanyo to axe another 2,600 jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. announced Friday plans to axe another 2,600 jobs after its parent company suffered an operating loss of 19.4 billion yen (\$180 million) in the year to November.

The troubled Osaka-based electronic manufacturer said the cuts, to be spread out over the next two years, would reduce its workforce in Japan to less than 26,000 by November 1995.

Sanyo cut 2,200 jobs in the year just ended by transferring 1,500 employees to affiliates and limiting new hiring.

Sanyo blamed a domestic sales slump and lower export profits arising from the stronger yen for the parent's operating loss, up 16 per cent from a year earlier. As a result, the company said it expected to cut its annual dividend from 6.5 to 5.0 yen a share.

Despite the parent's continued losses from its traditional

activities, Sanyo boosted its consolidated pre-tax profit almost sixfold to 3.2 billion yen through equity sales bringing in 24 billion yen in capital gains.

The company forecast a further recovery in group pre-tax earnings to six billion yen in the current year. Earnings after tax are projected to return to the black with a net profit of one billion yen, reversing the loss of 1.6 billion yen last year, its second net loss in a row.

Sanyo officials said they wanted to rebuild the company's earnings without resorting to selling off shares. Such sales are nevertheless expected to continue in the current year with capital gains of 14 billion yen forecast.

The company's sale of securities last year boosted non-operating income 6.5 per cent to 65.2 billion yen. Operating income dived 12.7 per cent to 10 billion yen, reflecting the bigger losses at the parent.

Group sales in the year to November dropped 0.7 per cent to 1.526 billion yen, depressed by sales in Japan which dropped 2.7 per cent to 882 billion yen. But overseas sales climbed 2.3 per cent to almost 645 billion yen.

Sanyo said its video equipment sales sagged 4.7 per cent to 255 billion yen while sales of audio equipment decreased 4.2 per cent to 141 billion yen. Electrical equipment sales plunged 10.5 per cent to 311 billion yen and sales of industrial equipment declined 1.1 per cent to 261 billion yen.

The only bright spots were information equipment and electronic devices, where sales leapt 10 per cent to 389 billion yen, and batteries and other products, where sales were up eight per cent to 169 billion yen.

Sanyo forecast a modest increase in group turnover to 1,554 billion yen in the current year but warned that the outlook remained weak.

## AFM trading shoots up again

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) registered a more than two-third increase last week, rising to JD 21.3 million during the week compared with JD 12.4 million in the previous week, figures released by the market showed Saturday.

Dealers said news that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has given preliminary licenses to five Jordanian banks to reopen in the occupied territories was one of the reasons for the rise.

But they noted that there has been a consistent interest on the part of investors on commercial banks in general since the beginning of the year.

Commercial bank stocks accounted for JD 11.7 million or nearly 55 per cent of the week's trading. The daily average was JD 4.3 million compared with JD 2.4 million during the previous week.

More than JD 2 million shares of the Jordan National Bank, which is expected to reopen two branches in the occupied territories, changed hands during the week as speculators who had invested in commercial bank stock took their profits.

Jordan National shares rose by more than 13 per cent during the week, opening at JD 7.050 and closing at JD 8.020, AFM figures showed.

Other banks which have been given approval to reopen in the West Bank included the Jordan Kuwait Bank, whose traded shares were worth JD 1.59 million last week, the Arab Bank (JD 867,000), and the Bank of Jordan (JD 145,000).

Dealers said holders of stocks of these banks were apparently waiting to cash in when the final approval is secured by the banks to reopen in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The preliminary licenses issued by the CBJ have to be followed up with approval by the bank of Israel before the commercial banks could actually reopen their branches.

But such approval is deemed automatic under the provisions of the Dec. 1 agreement between Jordan and Israel at reopening the banks closed since 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Representatives of the banks were expected to travel to the West Bank this week to follow up on the clearance procedures with the Israeli authorities, banking sources said.

At the AFM meanwhile, the Amman Bank for Investments, which has been drawing increased interest since last year, saw JD 2.41 million worth of its shares changing hands during the week.

A sector-by-sector split showed that industries

accounted for JD 7 million of 33 per cent of last week's trading, followed by services firms with JD 2.4 million, or 11.3 per cent, and insurance companies with JD 200,000 (or less than one per cent).

Eighty five of the 114 companies registered at the AFM saw activities last week, an AFM report said. It said stocks of 35 companies rose in value while those of 39 declined and those of 14 firms remained static.

Under standing AFM regulations, fluctuations in prices are limited to five per cent of the value of the shares.

AFM officials said there was an increased liquidity and investor confidence in the market after the CBJ lifted restrictions on commercial bank credits and Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an economic cooperation agreement in early January.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 29/01/1994			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERING CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	61,755	192,000	192,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	130,540	8,000	8,000
BANK OF JORDAN	13,622	1,840	1,840
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	17,775	2,090	2,090
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	48,430	3,080	3,080
THE HOUSING BANK	480,590	6,250	6,250
JORDAN TRUST BANK	48,867	1,230	1,230
JORDAN GULF BANK	357,885	2,080	2,080
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	630	4,300	4,300
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	25,668	4,620	4,620
BORGESS BANK	10,102	4,450	4,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	485	4,770	4,770
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	439,940	2,030	2,030
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	41,200	6,400	6,400
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	975	2,650	2,650
AMMAN SECURITIES	41,200	6,400	6,400
JORDAN TRUST	2,745	3,600	3,600
JORDAN INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	5,400	4,400	4,400
MECLAMEDIA INSURANCE	8,068	4,560	4,560
AL-HILAL AL-AMMANI INSURANCE	826	4,850	4,850
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	60,089	19,420	19,420
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	205,988	5,050	5,050
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	4,798	0,850	0,850
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	66,282	4,080	4,100
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	601	2,670	2,670
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	9,750	0,940	0,890
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,921	1,660	1,670
JORDAN PRICES FOUNDATION / ALJA	16,974	1,500	1,500
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDODOMINIUMS	31,168	2,260	2,270
AMMAN HOTELS & RESORTS	43,672	3,440	3,450
ATYCHER CONCEPT, MATERIALS MANUFACTURING	16,659	1,710	1,700
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	223,035	3,080	3,080
JORDAN PROGRESS	10,880	1,120	1,120
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	21,886	10,410	10,420
THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX & AGRICULTURAL	11,710	1,400	1,400
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCKS	100,543	12,450	12,350
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	206,988	8,040	8,050
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	9,310	3,120	3,200
JORDAN DAIRY	94,981	7,720	7,900
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	4,662	4,600	4,600
THE PUBLIC HEATING	2,380	2,830	2,800
ARAB CERAMIC DEVELOPMENTS INDUSTRIES	10,099	18,210	18,300
SPINNING & WEAVING	9,813	2,750	2,700
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	6,823	1,500	1,500
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	3,215	0,360	0,350
DAR AL DAM DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	148,609	16,830	16,800
ARAB LIFESCIENCE & MEDICAL TRADING	16,970	1,340	1,350
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	61,070	10,150	10,200
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9,310	1,550	1,530
NATIONAL MEDICAL CORPORATION	590	0,390	0,400
INDUSTRIAL TEXTILE-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	19,875	5,360	5,300
JORDAN WOODWORK INDUSTRIES	4,095	2,160	2,170
UPPERING, GEORGE INDUSTRIES	9,310	1,550	1,530
ALABUS INDUSTRIES	2,400	4,800	4,800
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	24,765	1,220	1,200
JORDAN PROMOTIONS CHEMICALS TURKEY	9,310	1,550	1,530
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	50,392	7,750	7,650
JORDAN SODA-CHEMICALS	16,970	1,340	1,350
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	3,798	3,340	3,310
JORDAN TRADING CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	6,255	1,280	1,260
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	298,431	5,840	5,830
GRAND TOTAL	3,722,258		

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 129848  
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 1 JD 329327

## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close	New York Close	
	Jan 27/1994	Jan 28/1994	
Sterling Pound	1.5055	1.4965	
Deutsche Mark	1.7290	1.7420	
Swiss Franc	1.4612	1.4690	
French Franc	5.8848	5.9170	
Japanese Yen	108.60	109.60	
European Currency Unit	1.1729**	1.1758	

\* USD Per YTC  
\*\* European Options in 5.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.53	
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.31	5.19	5.18	
Deutsche Mark	6.09	5.68	5.56	5.12	
Swiss Franc	4.12	4.00	3.81	3.56	
French Franc	6.37	6.06	6.00	5.56	
Japanese Yen	2.28	2.18	2.15	2.09	
European Currency Unit	6.50	6.25	6.00	5.56	

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	378.15	7.50	Silver	5.02	0.115

\* 21 Karat

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 29/1/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7040	0.7060	
Sterling Pound	1.0517	1.0570	
Deutsche Mark	0.4037	0.4057	
Swiss Franc	0.4787	0.4811	
French Franc	0.1189	0.1195	
Japanese Yen	0.6393	0.6425	
Dutch Guilder	0.3620	0.3638	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0414	0.0416	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	

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## Parliament enacts Hosokawa reforms in watered-down form

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who came to power pledging to clean up Japan's corrupt politics, finally won parliamentary approval Saturday for his reform bills — in a watered-down form.

After five months of intense parliamentary battles, the revised bills were passed by both houses of parliament just hours before Mr. Hosokawa's self-imposed midnight deadline.

Approval meant Japan will now be spared a major political crisis on top of a worsening recession.

If Mr. Hosokawa had failed to push through the bills Saturday, the final day of the current session, he would have been forced to step down or call snap elections.

"We have completed the biggest mission of our cabinet," an elated Hosokawa told a caucus of his own party after the passage. "But we still have huge problems ahead of us."

The breakthrough came late Friday when Hosokawa struck a deal with Yohsei Kono, chief of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In marathon talks, Mr. Hosokawa finally yielded ground to the once-dominant LDP by agreeing to scrap a

proposed blanket ban on big business donations to individual politicians and to raise the number of lower house lawmakers to be elected from new single-seat districts.

A weary Hosokawa acknowledged he had made huge concessions. "I made the decision to give in largely to the LDP regarding the contents of the compromise plan," he said.

The prime minister added that he had acted decisively in order to go on to other urgent tasks, including drafting policies to fire up an economy now suffering its worst recession since World War II.

After Saturday's vote, he told a news conference: "It is clear that the biggest issue facing us is the recession."

I would like to announce details of the (stimulus) measures by the end of next week," he refused to comment on details, such as the size of proposed income tax cuts.

Mr. Hosokawa won power after his "clean government" campaign had helped to unseat the LDP at last July's general election after a byword for corruption in public life.

Smarting in opposition, the conservative party had paid lip service to reform calls but for months waged parliamentary

trench warfare to resist Mr. Hosokawa's package.

The party had grudgingly accepting a need to overhaul the way voters elect the powerful lower house — replacing multi-seat constituencies, believed to encourage lavish campaign spending, with a combination of single-seat districts and proportional representation.

The LDP, grown used to being bankrolled by industry in exchange for favours, balked however at another main plank of Mr. Hosokawa's platform that would have cut off these funds.

In hopes of salvaging the essence of his bills, passed by the lower house in November but rejected by the upper chamber a week ago, Mr. Hosokawa yielded to the LDP on this point.

The Socialist Party, Mr. Hosokawa's largest but most unreliable coalition partner, had been insisting on outlawing corporate donations to individual politicians but in the end the prime minister had to concede the point, at least for now.

"I made the decision to override the Socialists' demand," he said. "In five years the donations will be banned and the system (of four-

raising) will be made more transparent."

After Saturday's landmark parliamentary vote, which brings the first significant electoral law changes in 40 years, Mr. Hosokawa immediately called in his economic ministers to discuss a planned income tax cut and other pillars of the fresh stimulus measures.

While polls have shown up to 70 per cent of Japanese backed the government's reform agenda, many also voiced concern the stalemate had held up urgently needed action on the economy.

When lawmakers reassembled Monday, after a bare one-day recess, for the start of the regular 150-day parliamentary session, they can at last put reform questions aside and concentrate not just on the short-term stimulus measures but also on the state budget bill for the 1994 fiscal year beginning on April 1.

The prime minister has now cleared the decks at home before a scheduled trip to Washington where he must hold tough trade talks on Feb. 11 with President Bill Clinton.

He will now be able to point to his reforms and to an economic stimulus package as proof of his government's capability, analysts say.

## Mandela launches campaign with vow to bring social justice to S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela Saturday launched the African National Congress (ANC) campaign for South Africa's all-race election, promising social justice and telling supporters: "Today we are almost there."

The ANC leader, who spent nearly three decades in jail for opposing white-minority rule, told a crowd of about 800 people.

"The ANC's vision of a South Africa in which people live in peace and with equal opportunities, is an ideal which sustained me during my 27 years in prison."

"It is an ideal for which I was prepared to sacrifice my life. An ideal which together we can realise on 27 April 1994."

The ANC is expected to win the April poll with about two-thirds of the vote. It launched its campaign in a cavernous exhibition hall on the edge of Soweto township, with the speakers' platform decked with balloons and banners in party colours of green, black and yellow.

Mr. Mandela, 73, said: "I am confident... we will work together to build a United Nation in a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa."

The ANC manifesto promised to cut some taxes, raise public spending, and improve housing and education in a social justice drive for blacks left behind during years of white-rule apartheid.

"The millions of people without jobs will be at the top of the ANC government's agenda," the movement said.

Mr. Mandela took a swipe at white President F.W. de Klerk, his co-recipient of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, saying:

"There are those who would like us to believe that the past doesn't exist, that decades of apartheid rule have suddenly disappeared. But the economic and social devastation of apartheid remain. Our country is in a mess."

Mr. De Klerk is campaigning for his National Party (NP), which introduced apartheid in 1948 to perpetuate white minority rule. The party campaign is based on South Africa forgetting the past and looking to the future.

The president was roundly jeered Saturday when he opened an NP office in the black township of Ntsonomi.



African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela waves to supporters as he launches the ANC election manifesto on the edge of Soweto near Johannesburg (AFP photo)

outside the Eastern Transvaal town of Bethal.

Several hundred ANC supporters protested outside, shouting ANC slogans. "We don't want De Klerk here. De Klerk must go," one demonstrator told reporters.

Meanwhile, Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi proposed Saturday that his Inkatha Freedom Party boycott South Africa's all-race national elections in April and consider some form of "resistance politics."

"What I am calling for is the courage to enter the politics of resistance knowing that in the final analysis no government and no constitution can stand that which is really rejected by the people," he told a special congress of his party.

Mr. Buthelezi has joined conservative black and white groups in rejecting the constitution agreed between the government and African National Congress, saying it does not provide for ethnic self-determination.

ANC and Inkatha followers have fought bitter turf wars, accounting for much of the violence in which 14,000 blacks have been killed in four years of apartheid reform.

Mr. Buthelezi said he would not prescribe what choice the Congress should make on election participation.

## U.N. commander accuses Bosnia Croats of 'inadmissible behaviour'

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Croat forces acknowledged Saturday they killed three Italian journalists in a mortar attack on Mostar and were accused of "inadmissible behaviour" by the commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The television journalists were among at least five people who died in the southern Bosnian city Friday in a Croat assault while a U.N. aid convoy delivered food to besieged Muslims.

Two U.N. soldiers were wounded in another Croat attack on a U.N. convoy taking fuel to a children's hospital at Batkovic in central Bosnia and its leader was threatened at gunpoint.

Suspected Muslim gunmen shot dead a British aid worker and wounded two in central Bosnia where Croat and Muslim-led forces fought territorial battles, U.N. sources said Friday.

U.N. Commander-in-Chief General Jean Cot sent a stiff protest to the Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) over the attacks on civilian targets and U.N. personnel.

"This type of behaviour is totally inadmissible and I shall

denounce all actions of any of the warring parties taken against UNPROFOR in the international press."

Bosnian Croat authorities acknowledged that the Italians died in a HVO attack but said it was made in retaliation for shelling by Muslims forces trapped inside Mostar.

A statement expressed regret for the deaths as U.N. troops prepared to evacuate the bodies of the Italians from the city.

Kris Jankowski, an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told reporters in Sarajevo that the HVO poured shell and sniper fire into east Mostar where the Muslims are besieged even though they could see the aid convoy entering the sector.

The U.N. saw snipers kill two civilians while the convoy unloaded and Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said the overall death toll in the city was as high as 10.

"We're going to protest to the HVO authorities about this which shows there is little respect for our convoys in this area," Mr. Jankowski said.

"The shelling was so heavy that our convoy leader had to

delay his departure."

Bosnian Croats want to make Mostar, virtually destroyed during the 22-month civil war between Muslims, Croats and Serbs, the capital of their projected ethnic Republic in Bosnia.

The United States, Britain and France have welcomed a decision by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to use close air support if necessary to relieve Canadian troops in Srebrenica and open Tuzla Airport for aid flights.

Srebrenica and Tuzla are U.N. designated safe havens in eastern Bosnia mainly surrounded by hostile Serbs.

Serb forces have prevented the replacement of the Canadians in Srebrenica by Dutch U.N. troops and fear that Tuzla Airport could be used to resupply Muslims with weapons and ammunition.

A spokesman for the Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said: "We are prepared to stand by our commitment to use NATO air power to respond to any call for assistance by the U.N. if their troops are attacked in the course of meeting those objectives."

"Even more revealingly, Lamont tells me that Major cut out every single mention of Margaret Thatcher in a post-ERM speech and his face twists into an expression of scorn, 'pathetic,' he pronounces."

Later she wrote: "When I asked him how he ranked his betrayal on a score of one to 10, he said: 'Let me put it this way, I did feel that my own relationship with the prime minister, which had been a close one, ended. And it will not be put back together again. That's all I want to say about it.'"

## Seoul to return 2 North Korean soldiers

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea will return two North Korean soldiers the navy found unconscious aboard a fishing vessel that drifted into Southern waters, military authorities said Saturday.

The South Korean Defence Ministry said the two North Koreans have been held at a military hospital in Seoul since they were picked up Thursday by a South Korean navy ship five miles (eight kilometres) off an island near the western border.

The ministry said North Korea would be informed of the repatriation through the U.N. Command, which supervises all border contacts at the truce village of Panmunjom.

"We have decided to repatriate them in respect of their wishes," a ministry statement said.

The ministry identified the two as Kim Chul-jin, 23, and Kim Kyung-chul, 19, both from the same army unit in the North's southwestern coastal town of Yongyon.

When the pair regained consciousness in the hospital, they were given the option of returning to the North or remaining in the South, the ministry said.

The soldiers' one-tonne fishing vessel apparently had drifted for two days in rough seas.

Military officials in Seoul say that North Korean soldiers are forced to fish because their rations are insufficient.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tried unsuccessfully to contact a North Korean official Friday to determine whether Pyongyang had given new instructions on the nuclear inspection issue, an IAEA spokesman said here.

Last Tuesday, the adviser to the North Korean embassy in Vienna, Ho Jin Yun, was given the IAEA's written answer to Pyongyang's questions about modalities for future inspections of its seven nuclear sites.

LONDON (AFP) — Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont was early Saturday at the centre of a new political storm after describing Prime Minister John Major as "weak and hopeless."

In an interview with the Times newspaper, Mr. Lamont also described the government's controversial back to basics policy as a "nauseating" moral crusade.

The accusations diverted attention from a speech by Mr. Major in Leeds, in which the prime minister defended his economic policies, saying the government's priorities were lower borrowing, lower unemployment, lower inflation and more growth.

MPs were stunned by the apparent ferocity of Mr. Lamont's attack — the third since his sacking in June 1993, eight months after the ERM

## Lamont lambasts 'weak and hopeless' Major

crisis. It is certain to reopen debate about Mr. Major's style of government.

Mr. Lamont's cabinet career survived eight months after black Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1992, when fevered currency speculators went on a selling spree of sterling, forcing the pound out of the ERM, which was at the time the cornerstone of British economic policy.

Mr. Lamont late Friday issued a statement describing the interview as "a mixture of invented quotations and muddled misrepresentations" — but declined to pinpoint which parts of the article he disowned.

"It does not reflect accurately either my views or my general attitude," he told the Press Association.

Asked whether his description of major as "weak and hopeless" was one of the parts

of the article he disowned, Mr. Lamont replied: "I have said what I have said."

His statement was swiftly rejected by Times editor Peter Stothard, who stood by the article written by Ginny Dougary.

Dougary wrote: "Over lunch... we discuss many things, among them the present government. He says its moral crusade is 'nauseating', you would never catch him banging on about 'family values'."

"He describes the PM as 'weak and hopeless'. Government is like a marriage, he says, you don't know the measure of the person until you're in bed with them."

"He offers a rare insight into the workings of Mr. Major's cabinet by describing the extent to which, as chancellor, his speeches were blue-

pencilled by the prime minister.

"In one budget speech, Mr. Lamont's line, 'we must face reality, or reality will face us' was excised by Major because the PM considered it too bleak."

"Even more revealingly, Lamont tells me that Major cut out every single mention of Margaret Thatcher in a post-ERM speech and his face twists into an expression of scorn, 'pathetic,' he pronounces."

Later she wrote: "When I asked him how he ranked his betrayal on a score of one to 10, he said: 'Let me put it this way, I did feel that my own relationship with the prime minister, which had been a close one, ended. And it will not be put back together again. That's all I want to say about it.'"

"It just so happened the first car was an ambulance, carrying a cardiac patient," said Kym Koch, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. "They saw that she was bleeding and stopped."

She was released from a southern Oklahoma hospital Friday.

## Bardot braves death threats to ban horse meat

PARIS (R) — Former screen goddess and animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot shrugged off death threats to take her campaign for a ban on horse meat to the French government. Ms. Bardot received dozens of death warnings after appearing on a popular prime-time television show and urging people to boycott horse meat, which is traditional French fare. "It shouldn't be on our plates," she said, arguing horses suffer pain when slaughtered and horse meat is banned from restaurants because it spoils easily. Ms. Bardot and Jean-Pierre Foucault, who hosts the glibly "Sacree Soiree" (Sacred Evening) television show, have since been bombarded with death threats. A Bardot spokesman said: "It shows just how inhuman these men are."

Ms. Bardot told television news on TFI, which broadcasts "Sacree Soiree." Instead of backing down, Ms. Bardot appealed to Agriculture Minister Jean Puech to ban the sale of horse meat, claiming it was dangerous to eat and led to immoral slaughter. "That is what is needed so we don't have any more trichinosis (or) stolen horses later found in slaughterhouses," Ms. Bardot said in a letter to Mr. Puech. Trichinosis is a parasitic illness which can be transmitted to humans through horsemeat.

Ms. Foucault, who like Ms. Bardot was given police protection, said he had received many phone calls from de-ate horse butchers. "What really bothers me is I had horse butchers crying on the phone yesterday, saying, 'What am I going to do?'" said Mr. Foucault, who has invited butchers to his show next week.

Ms. Bardot said she was not scared by the threats. "I am just saying that I cannot see how we can be successfully sidelined in a region where our roots go so deep."

He said the interim constitution designed to govern South Africa for five years under a government of national unity was "specifically designed to promote ANC power and is an instrument for the Inkatha's destruction."

ANC and Inkatha followers have fought bitter turf wars, accounting for much of the violence in which 14,000 blacks have been killed in four years of apartheid reform.

Mr. Buthelezi said he would not prescribe what choice the Congress should make on election participation.

San Leandro, Calif. (AP) — An 82-year-old man was found stiff and cold on his bedroom floor and authorities thought he was dead — until he gasped faintly at the flash of a coroner's camera. Frederic Green was in critical condition Friday in the intensive care unit at San Leandro Hospital, said a spokeswoman Barbara Maroni. He was being treated for a number of problems and doctors believe he had suffered a stroke, she said. A neighbour called police after noticing two weeks of mail and newspapers piling up outside Mr. Green's door. Officers broke into the house Wednesday evening and found Mr. Green on the floor. He did not appear to be breathing, his flesh felt hard and chilled and the stench of decay permeated the house. As is routine in cases where someone dies alone, a coroner's office technician was sent to gather evidence and take photographs. "As the technician's camera flashed, there was a very soft gasp or other slight sign of life," Lt. Dennis Glover told the Oakland Tribune.

Woman survives burglary by playing dead

ROSEDALE, Oklahoma (AFP) — A woman survived an attack by burglars who slit her throat by playing dead for two hours and then flagging down an ambulance passing by her home. Two men, one of them a distant relative to the victim, were charged Friday for breaking into the home of Otis and Minnie Short Thursday, and slashing Minnie Short's throat and shooting dead her husband. She played dead until the burglars left and waved down an ambulance carrying a cardiac patient. "It just so happened the first car was an ambulance, carrying a cardiac patient," said Kym Koch, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. "They saw that she was bleeding and stopped."

She was released from a southern Oklahoma hospital Friday.

Entrepreneur sells freeway rubble

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Remains of the late, great Santa Monica Freeway are being used for earthquake relief. A label reading "Actual Santa Monica Freeway Rubble" adorns a plastic bag with a plum-size piece of shattered freeway concrete. It costs \$5, with about \$2 of the amount going to the American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter. "If we can generate any relief aid, then all the better," said Curtis Briggs, a bumper sticker dealer who came up with the freeway souvenir idea.



Gerry Adams

## Adams distances himself from (IRA) violence

DUBLIN (R) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, denied a U.S. visa because of alleged links with the IRA, has distanced himself from its 25-year-old guerrilla campaign but stopped short of endorsing an Anglo-Irish peace plan.

"I don't advocate violence. It is my personal and political priority to see an end to the IRA and an end to all other organisations involved in armed actions," he said.

Mr. Adams made the statement Friday after inconclusive talks with the U.S. consul in Belfast.

Washington had denied him a visa to attend a conference on Northern Ireland because of suspected Sinn Fein links to the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Sinn Fein has consistently denied allegations by British legislators that it is a front for the IRA.

Mr. Adams' language was some of the most conciliatory he has used since the launch on Dec. 15 of an Anglo-Irish peace plan to end violence by nationalists fighting to reunite Ireland and Protestant extremists trying to prevent it.

But Mr. Adams failed to endorse the plan, a condition laid down by Washington for issuing a visa to attend the National Committee on American Foreign Policy meeting on Feb. 1.

Sinn Fein, like the IRA, seeks to reunite Ireland with the province Britain partitioned seven decades ago. In previous statements, Mr. Adams has said he abhors violence but understands Irish people who resort to arms to end "British occupation."

Mr. Adams, barred by the United States for several years, said the thrust of his party's politics had changed some time ago to forging a peace agreement.

"I want to see an end to all violence and an end to this conflict... this means an end to the British army presence and the disbandment of the IRA," he said in his statement issued in Belfast.

Britain and Ireland have received President Bill Clinton's support for their joint initiative which offers Sinn Fein a place in the political mainstream providing it renounces violence and gets the IRA to lay down its arms.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Christopher predecessors attack policies

WASHINGTON (AP) — After receiving an amiable welcome from Secretary of State William Christopher, four of his predecessors spent much of the next two hours Friday disapproving what he has wrought over the past year. There was harsh criticism over loss of U.S. credibility in Bosnia. The 11th conference of former secretaries of state attracted four of the eight who are still living: James Baker III, Alexander M. Haig, Edmund S. Muskie and William P. Rogers. Sitting around a horseshoe-shaped table in the building they once commanded, the former cabinet members generally welcomed the Clinton administration's lack of involvement in Bosnia but had few kind words beyond that. There were also criticisms of policy toward China, Somalia, Haiti and other places. Mr. Haig was most troubled by the administration's early resolve to pursue a tough policy against the Serbs, only to back off when the Europeans disagreed. Mr. Haig, who served 17 months as secretary under President Ronald Reagan, said empty threats embolden American adversaries worldwide. "When you make a threat and you do not do it, then you lose tremendous credibility," Mr. Haig said. In a similar vein, Mr. Baker said, "We've got extraordinary credibility around the world. You can dissipate that credibility very easily. We made a mistake early on in Bosnia by saying we were going to go in there and then backing off," he said.

### Mexico frees 38 prisoners in Chiapas

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — The Mexican government Friday freed 38 men who had been jailed on suspicion of joining a peasant uprising that has rocked the southern state of Chiapas. The prisoners, all of whom had said they were innocent, were picked up off the streets as the Mexican army regained control of towns and villages at first seized by the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in its New Year's Day uprising. The 38, many of them allegedly beaten and tortured, were released from the Cerro Hueco Prison in the state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez. Gilberto Oceana Mendez, a senior official of the state prison system, said in a statement that their release was not linked to an amnesty law passed by parliament last week for EZLN rebels. No indigenous peasant guerrillas have yet taken up the amnesty, and about 32 men arrested by army units inside the conflict zone over the last three weeks are still being detained at Cerro Hueco.

### Zhirinovsky refuses to leave Slovenia

LJUBLJANA (AFP) — An aide to Vladimir Zhirinovsky said the Russian ultra-nationalist leader will defy an order to leave Slovenia for allegedly creating public disorder, and a Russian envoy said Russia would not intervene. Mr. Zhirinovsky, who was expelled from Bulgaria during a visit there last month, had no intention of terminating his visit to former Yugoslav Republic Slovenia ahead of schedule, his aide Alexander Zubkov said in remarks carried Saturday by the Slovenian News Agency (STA). "Mr. Zhirinovsky has no intention of leaving Slovenia before Sunday night. He plans to go, as scheduled, to Portoroz, a seaside resort on the Slovenian coast, and then travel, as planned, to Belgrade Sunday night," the aide said. "We consider we did not upset the peace Thursday night in Bled (northwestern Slovenia)... we ate dinner normally," he added. The Slovenian Foreign Ministry Friday told the Russian politician who heads the right-wing Liberal Democratic Party Friday to leave the country "as rapidly as possible" after accusing him and his entourage of making an uproar in the streets of Bled Thursday night. Mr. Zhirinovsky also reportedly called for the reconstitution of Yugoslavia, including Slovenia.

### Strong aftershock shakes L.A. area

LOS ANGELES (R) — A strong aftershock to last week's devastating earthquake rocked the Los Angeles area Saturday. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake was felt at around 3:20 a.m. PST (6:20 a.m. EST 08:20 GMT) for up to 20 seconds across large sections of southern California. It caused tall buildings to sway, touched off car alarms and rattled resident's nerves. The strongest tremors appeared to be centred in the San Fernando Valley, the epicentre of a magnitude-6.6 quake that struck Jan. 17, killing 60 people, leaving 25,000 homeless and damaging or destroying thousands of structures. Ever since, the area has been shaken by thousands of aftershocks, some measuring more than 4.0 and a few over 5.0 on the Richter Scale, a pattern seismologists say is normal following a major quake.

### Kyrgyz leader poised to win referendum

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (R) — Reformist President Askar Akayev, a 49-year-old former mathematics professor, was tipped Saturday to win solid endorsement in Sunday's referendum on his role of Kyrgyzstan. With horses and helicopters, election officials in Kyrgyzstan prepared to reach even mountain herdsman in time for the ballot. In Bishkek, the capital of this former Soviet republic, newspapers and officials confidently predicted that Mr. Akayev would win a majority he needs to remain in office until 1996. The outcome will decide whether he can press on with his aim of turning the remote state into a "Switzerland of the east." Markil Ibrayev, chairman of the Central Election Committee, said he hoped for a large turnout.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Squabbles hit Asian championship

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Asian club soccer championship gets underway here Sunday two days late after arguments about the standard of training pitches and the withdrawal of two sides. Saudi Arabian club Al Shabab pulled out after a diplomatic row, and Victory Sports of the Maldives left after a row about the eligibility of their goalkeeper. Bahrain's Al Muharraq and the Omani club complained to organisers about the state of the pitches they had to train on.

## Bulgarian club get European ban

ZURICH (AFP) — Bulgarian club Botev Plovdiv will not be allowed to play in the European champions cup this time they win the national league, the European Football Union ruled Friday. UEFA's one-season ban was caused by Plovdiv's Georgi Donkov, who spat in a linesman's face during a cup match in Athens against Olympiakos Piraeus September 29. Donkov was sent off for the offence.

## Ivanisevic fined for foul language

MELBOURNE (R) — Goran Ivanisevic was fined \$6,000 Friday for using foul language during his Australian Open quarterfinal match against American Jim Courier. The fifth-seeded Croat swore several times in his native language during his straight sets defeat on Centre Court Wednesday. Tournament officials subsequently found a translator to view a videotape of the match and decided to give Ivanisevic the heaviest fine of this year's tournament.

## Masur drops out of Davis Cup tie

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian number one Wally Masur has ruled himself out of his country's first round Davis Cup tie against Russia in St. Petersburg in March. Masur was named in a seven-man squad for the 1994 competition Friday, but has now told the new captain/coach combination of John Newcombe and Tony Roche he needs a rest. "Wally has said he would like to take a couple of months to freshen up," said Roche. "We will just have to make sure we win that match for him, so he can join the Davis Cup campaign for the rest of the year." Emerging 21-year-old Queensland Pat Rafter has been named to the squad for the first time.

## Toshack named Wales manager

CARDIFF (R) — Wales Friday appointed former Welsh international and Liverpool striker John Toshack as their new manager, responsible for team selection and preparation. Toshack, coach of Spanish first division Real Sociedad, replaces Terry Yorath whose contract expired December 31 after Wales narrowly failed to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in the United States. Toshack, who won 40 caps, began his managerial career at Swansea, guiding them from the English fourth division to the first. He also won the Spanish league title as coach of Real Madrid in 1990. Former Wales manager Mike Smith, an Englishman who was in charge from 1974 to 1979, was named team co-ordinator and assistant national development officer.

## Miura lands Japan's biggest contract

TOKYO (R) — Kazuyoshi Miura is poised to become Japan's richest soccer star with a new one-year contract worth 220 million yen (\$2 million), a Tokyo newspaper said Friday. "Kazu" outshone every other player in the 1993 inaugural season of the professional J. League, scoring 20 goals in 36 matches for eventual champions Kawasaki Verdy. "It's the king of money you dream about," the Nikkan Sports quoted him as saying. "I have always tried to support Japanese soccer and I'll be ashamed if my play doesn't match this amount of money." Last season Miura earned 120 million yen (\$1.1 million) but said he wanted to leave Japan to play in the Italian League, even if it meant a hefty pay cut. Verdy's reported new contract offer would raise his pay to the level of the top foreign players Japanese clubs have imported to add spice and international glamour to the league. England's Gary Lineker was the best paid in 1993, most of which he spent sidelined by a foot injury, with a two-year contract with Nagoya Grampus that brings him a reported £2.3 million (\$3.45 million). Ageing Brazilian superstar Zico is nearing the end of a three-year contract with Kashima Antlers worth \$1.5 million.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHAHIN  
A TAWAN HINCH  
© Tawhan Hinch Services Inc.

## ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A1098 ♣AK93  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 What action do you take?  
A—This is not a question of how much North holds as where those cards are located. Since no scientific approach provides the solution, we would give the opponents as little information about the hand as possible, so our choice is four hearts rather than a game try in a minor.
- Q2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠107632 ♣K85 ♦73 ♠865  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 What action do you take?  
A—Stretch as much as possible to respond to partner's minor-suit opening bid, especially when you hold a five-card major. Over the years, however, we have developed a healthy respect for coin of the realm and this hand is short of the limit for a response. Pass.
- Q3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K9 ♣AQ976 ♦86 ♠K752  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 What action do you take?  
A—You have the strength for a balancing double, but that will leave you awkwardly placed should partner respond one spade or some number of no trump. Our choice is
- one heart, even though this balancing bid could be made on a hand that is a king weaker.
- Q4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK2 ♣K42 ♦AQJ ♠AKJ3  
What is your opening bid?  
A—This is a nightmare for anyone who believes that you need all four suits stopped to open the bidding with two no trump. You have 25 points and a perfectly balanced hand. To open anything other than two no trump will land you in the twilight zone of a rebidding nightmare.
- Q5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q84 ♦73 ♠86 ♠A887654  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A—Points are meaningless here—the hand stands or falls by how many tricks the club suit will produce. This hand has a kicker, the queen of spades might be an entry. We would grid our loins and leap to three no trump.
- Q6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K7 ♣AKJ53 ♦AJ5 ♠AJ3  
What is your opening bid?  
A—Although this hand counts only 21 high-card points, the wealth of controls makes its actual worth greater. If you elect to open one heart, there's a distinct chance you might play there. With stoppers in every suit and a hand that is balanced, our choice would be two no trump.

## Atlanta cruises past Hornets

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Dominique Wilkins scored 27 points. Mookie Blaylock added 25 and Kevin Willis 24 to lead the Atlanta Hawks to their fourth straight win, 117-105 over the crippled Charlotte Hornets Friday.

Atlanta, which leads the eastern conference at 29-10, got a game-high 12 rebounds from Willis, while Wilkins added nine.

Blaylock had seven rebounds and six assists and was 7-of-11 from 3-point range — an all-time high in 3-pointers against the Hornets.

The triumph was the Hawks' third straight on the road and their third in a row over the Hornets this season.

Eddie Johnson and Muggsy Bogues scored 21 points apiece to lead Charlotte, which lost for the fourth time in five games and was without injured stars Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning.

Hersey Hawkins added 20 points, while Del Curry and the Kenny Gattison scored 16 each. Gattison's total was a season high.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 30 points as the Bulls got back on the winning track with a 113-96 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The triumph came one day

after the Cleveland Cavaliers ended a Bulls winning streak at seven games.

Still, by beating the Bucks, the Bulls improved to 25-5 in their last 30 games. It also was Chicago's 17th straight home victory and enabled the Bulls to stay one game behind Atlanta in the central division.

Pippen was 10-of-19 from the field and added 11 assists and eight rebounds. B.J. Armstrong added 17 points for Chicago, while Horace Grant scored 16.

For Milwaukee, Eric Murdock scored 25 points with 11 assists and Vin Baker had 23 points and 10 rebounds.

In Orlando, Glen Rice scored 34 points as the Miami Heat used an 16-0 run in the third quarter to record a 106-97 victory and snap the Magic's team-record winning streak at five games.

Steve Smith added 18 points and Grant Long 17 for the Heat, who stopped a road losing streak at six games. The Heat also evened the season series with Orlando at 2-2.

Shaquille O'Neal and Nick Anderson scored 21 points each to lead the Magic.

The Magic pulled within one point with 50 seconds left in the fourth quarter, but Rice hit a 21-footer to give Miami a

three-point bulge, and the Magic never got any closer.

For Orlando, Anfernee Hardaway scored 17 points, while Scott Skiles chipped in 15. O'Neal grabbed a team-high 11 boards and blocked five shots.

In Philadelphia, Dan Marjerie scored 33 points, including a pair of 3-point field goals during a late third-quarter Suns run, to lead Phoenix to a 108-103 victory over the 76ers.

Cedric Ceballos added 19 points. A.C. Green had 16 points and 10 rebounds and Oliver Miller scored 12 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Suns, who improved to 5-6 without injured All-Star Charles Barkley.

Rookie Shawn Bradley scored a season-high 25 points for Philadelphia. Bradley finished with 11 rebounds and Orlando Woolridge had 24 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots for Philly, which had its win streak snapped at two.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds to lead the Jazz to a 119-91 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Jeff Malone added 27 points for the jazz, who won their fourth straight home game.

## Harding works out for trip she might not get

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A playful Tonya Harding skated Friday, working out for a trip to the Olympics that may never come, as authorities tried to corroborate statements linking her to the attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

In Detroit, station WJBK-TV said it learned that phone records showed several calls were made from a hotel there on Harding's personal credit card the day of the attack — all back to Portland to her bodyguard, who has confessed and implicated Harding.

WJBK-TV also said that Harding asked for Kerrigan's room number at a Detroit hotel and was given it in violation of hotel policy.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., the figure skating panel investigating Harding, met and moved up the deadline for its report to Feb. 10, two days before the start of the Winter Games.

And in Portland, the grand

jury in the Kerrigan case heard Friday from Stephanie Quintero, a close friend of Harding's.

Harding on Thursday said she learned of the plan to injure Kerrigan only after returning home to Portland from Detroit on Jan. 10, four days after Kerrigan was clubbed on the right knee, knocking her out of the national championships.

But Jeff Gillooly, Harding's ex-husband and manager, who was arrested along with bodyguard Shawn Eckardt and two other men, has reportedly implicated her in 17 hours of questioning by authorities of part of a plea bargain.

Under Oregon law, Harding cannot be indicted based only on the testimony of others charged in the alleged crime.

Janis Timlick, legal assistant for Dennis Rawlinson, one of Harding's attorneys, said there would be no comment on the Detroit TV report.

## 1 year ban for director in Brazilian soccer scandal

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The director at the centre of Brazilian soccer's match fixing scandal has been banned for one year following the conclusion of the first of three investigations into the affair.

Wagner Canzaro, the former refereeing director of the Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation, was banned following allegations made against him, firstly by three anonymous referees to a Brazilian newspaper, and then by referee Claudio Ceirdeira.

All said Canzaro had told them that referees be responsible for ensuring results to certain matches in the 1994 Rio de Janeiro soccer championship went "according to the federation's interests."

The ban was imposed by a tribunal of the Rio de Janeiro federation, after finding Canzaro guilty of attempting to influence results.

Canzaro, who was sacked shortly after the allegations were first made in December, has denied the claims, saying there had been "an error of interpretation." He said he would appeal against the ban.

The scandal looks set to drag on with two police inquiries currently under way and more serious allegations being investigated.

Rio police are holding their own inquiry and have already heard claims from ex-referee Reginaldo Mathias that match-fixing has been common in the Rio de Janeiro championship since 1985.

Brazilian federal police launched a separate investigation because some of the matches involved may have featured in a government-run lottery.

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## Aamodt wins World Cup Downhill

CHAMONIX, France (AFP) — Kjetil-Andre Aamodt struck form at just the right time here Saturday to win his first World Cup Downhill 15 days before the Olympic race in Lillehammer.

The 22-year-old, who admits he would love to win the blue ribbon Olympic title in his native Norway, raced down the tough 3.343 metre course in 1 min. 58.35 sec. to pull off his first win this season.

The Norwegian, world champion at slalom and giant slalom and Olympic champion at super giant slalom, consolidated his overall lead in the World Cup as main rival Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg finished eighth.

Jean-Luc Cretier, seeking the first French downhill win since Franck Piccard's success at Schladming, Austria, in 1990, was second in 1:58.69.

Cretier had been third at Val Gardena in Italy in December but fell last week at Wengen in Switzerland.

Hannes Trinkl of Austria, who broke into the top 30 by winning a downhill and super giant slalom from late starts this season, finished third in 1:58.87.

Helmut Hoeflechner clinched his place in Austria's Olympic team by coming fourth in 1:58.95. He would have been higher if he had not sat back on his ski tails on the final run-in.

Luigi Corti of Italy, who started first, was fifth in 1:58.96.

Girardelli, who has won one race and been runner-up three times this season, was in touch on the more demanding part of the course higher up but mistakes on the lower half pushed him down to eighth.

## VACANCY NOTICE

Placement and career guidance office, UNRWA headquarters Amman — Bayader Wadi Seer announces the availability of the following vacancy at Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

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  3. 5 years experience.
- Applications should be submitted to the aforesaid office not later than Feb. 6, 1994

## Graf wins Australian Open title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Steffi Graf destroyed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in just 57 withering minutes here Saturday to win her fourth Australian Open title crown.

The top seeded German, in mercurial form, swamped the nominated second best player in the women's game, 6-0, 6-2.

It was Graf's 15th Grand Slam title and her fourth consecutive Grand Slam crown.

Graf gave the bouncy Spaniard little chance, sweeping to the first set in 24 minutes, breaking her serve three times in an awesome display.

Graf's \$322,000 prize money swelled her career winnings to \$13,476,000, while Sanchez Vicario took home \$161,000 as runner up.

The German powerhouse, with a block of banner-carrying, chanting Germans in the stands, stormed through Sanchez Vicario's serve, breaking her to 30 in the second game, to 30 in the fourth and to 15 in the sixth game.

Some of her forehand winners — she hit 12 in the final — were breathtaking and gave the plucky Spaniard little hope.

Sanchez Vicario made more of a match of it in the second set when she held her first service of the final to sustained applause, but dropped her next service game in the fourth when she hit a forehand long to trail 1-3.

The second seed played her best game of the final as she broke Graf's service for the first and only time in the fifth game when she forced the German to net after a strong forehand approach.

Sanchez Vicario edged back to 2-3, but Graf broke her again, the fifth time overall, when the Spaniard's forehand was long.

Graf powered, on holding serve for 5-2, and then cranked up the heat on the besieged Sanchez Vicario winning it on her fourth match point with a backhand to the backcourt.

Sanchez Vicario earned the admiration of the centre court crowd when she staved off three match points with gritty determination, but the final was one-sided affair.

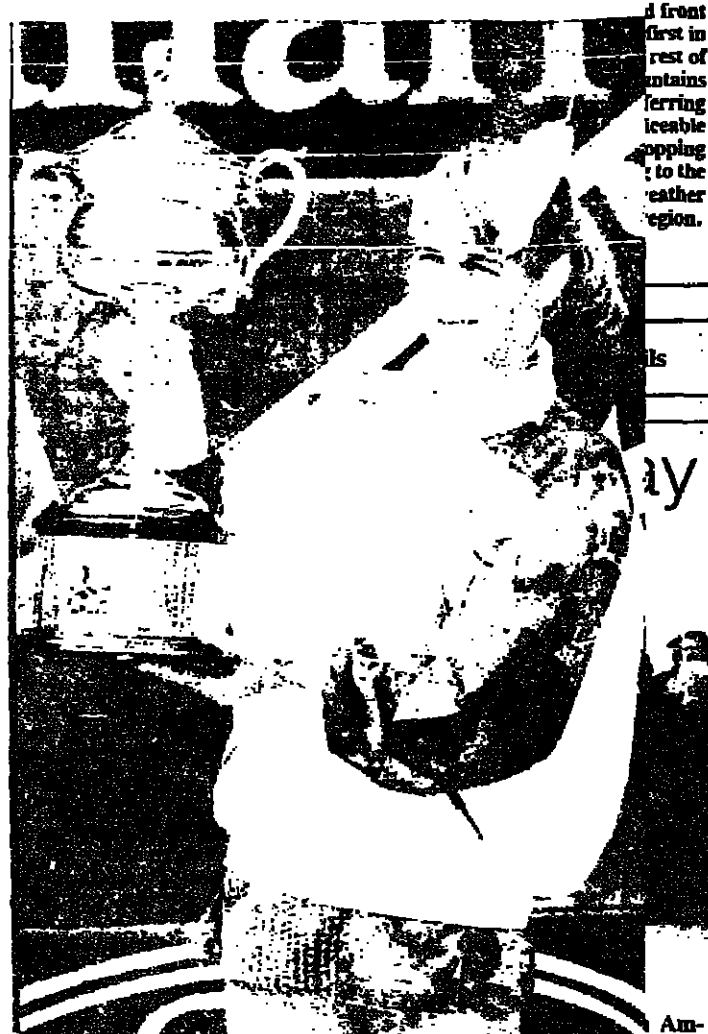
Graf said later it was "a great feeling" to have played so well to win a Grand Slam final.

"I haven't played as well as that often... especially in that first set I didn't seem to make any mistakes and whatever I did was close to the line, it was the right shot, perfect timing, and I don't think there have been many moments that I can say that I have played like that."

"I never thought I could win... against Arantxa, not at any stage, I knew that the way I played the first set it would be difficult to keep playing that way in the second, she was going to try something different."

"I had a good feeling because my practice this morning was so off, that is usually a good sign and that's why I had a good feeling."

"Especially against Arantxa you can never be really sure (of winning), and even at 4-0 in the first set I wasn't all that sure, but after I won the first set it was incredible and I just had to tell myself to stay focused, not to get that excited about the way I was playing."



Steffi Graf

and get down and concentrate.

Graf praised her new racket for giving her more depth and power on her strokes.

She also did not accept that her four consecutive Grand Slam victories constituted a Grand Slam, winning all four, the French, U.S., Australian opens and Wimbledon.

"The way I am playing now is a step forward to the time in 1988 (when she last won the Grand Slam), the competition has got stronger and today I proved that there are more things than going for my shots that I can do."

"In 1988 I was limited, and I can say that this time it's a more difficult time that five years' back," she said. "It's very special to win a Grand Slam, and any time to win four Grand Slams in a row is incredible, but winning it in a (calendar) year that's even harder... to me the '88 one was the same way."

"But I made too many errors today and my legs were not the court and I was getting to the ball so I was not position and she was making the winner on other side."

"That's the best I've ever played, especially in the set she didn't miss one but in 'Today something free a wrong and I couldn't do anything, it's the first time police ever felt this way, normally we get into the match and a Jordan back, but today I didn't have the same way."

## Eltingh, Haarhuis win doubles

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Dutch pair Jacco Eltingh and Hendrik Haarhuis won the Australian Open men's doubles title Saturday when they downed second seeds Byron Black and Jonathan Stark.

Eltingh and Haarhuis, seeded three here, beat the Zimbabwean-American combination, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-3, to win the title.

"It's a great feeling to win this Grand Slam event," said Haarhuis. "We didn't do so well last year and the goal for us is to do well in the Grand Slam events."

"To start off the new year with a Grand Slam win is fantastic in the way it was Eltingh and Haarhuis's ninth career title."

The top seeds, the North American combination of Greg Connell and Patrick Galbraith, were knocked out in the round.

## Maier fighting for life

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (R) — Ex-world champion skier Ullrich Maier was fighting for his life Saturday after breaking his neck in a high-speed crash during a women's World Cup Downhill race.

"His condition is very life-threatening. She has broken a bone in the back of her neck," doctor Guenter Hofmann said from the German hospital in Murnau where Maier was taken by helicopter.

"His condition is very acute. She is in intensive care," Hofmann added.

Maier, mother of a four-year-old girl, struck her head on a post at the side of the track after losing control of her right ski on the lower part of the 2.8-km course, one of the most challenging of the world cup circuit.

After her helmet flew and the 26-year-old Austrian careened down the slope on his back and seemed to be hanging by one of her skis.

Maier, world super-G champion in 1989 and 1992, received immediate medical attention where he lay sprawled on track. She was then put on a stretcher, winched into a helicopter and flown to a special neurology clinic in Murnau.

Garmisch race doctor Stefan Frankenberg said Maier given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and a tube inserted to help her breathe artificially while she was lying unconscious on the piste.

## Maradona demands \$500,000

DUBAI (R) — Soccer star Diego Maradona has demanded \$500,000 to play in the opening game of a local soccer tournament in the United Arab Emirates in February, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

Al Itihad said the organisers refused to pay the money.

Cinema		Tel.: 634144		Cinema		Tel.: 699238		Cinema		Tel.: 677420		Tel.: 675571		Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 6251533	
<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>				<b>PLAZA</b>				<b>CONCORD</b>				<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>		<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>	
Michael Douglas — in "BLACK RAIN"				Ahmad Zaki in				Kim Basinger — in "My Stepmother Is An Alien"				presents a play entitled:		Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents	
Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30								Steven Segal — in "UNDER SIEGE"				A popular political comedy		Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)	
Special show on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. for children				(Arabic)								In addition to other comedians		daily at 8:30 p.m.	
Bugs Bunny film.				Shows: 12.30, 3.15, 5.00, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30								Every night at 8:15		Theatre is closed Mondays and Tuesdays	
												Tickets are sold all day			



# U.S. senate links military sales with end of Israel boycott

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that would end the 43-year-old Arab boycott of American companies doing business with Israel. The amendment to the State Department authorization bill, passed 93-0, would affect billions of dollars in sales to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Gulf states.

The amendment to the State Department authorization bill, passed 93-0, would affect billions of dollars in sales to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Gulf states.

Mr. Brown said that last year, while Israel was moving towards peace with its Arab neighbors, the Commerce Department's Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance documented 8,660 cases of companies that had been found to be in violation of the boycott.

The bill gives the president authority to exercise a one-year waiver of a defense sale if he concludes it is in the national interest.

It comes at a time when many Arab states are either moving or moving towards joining the Arab League boycott in effect since 1951.

Commerce Secretary Donald Brown, who recently visited the Middle East, said Thursday that the boycott is crumbling of its own weight.

He noted that blacklisted companies had some of the largest exhibits at a recent telecommunications fair in Saudi Arabia, and that Morocco's King Hassan has met with Israeli business representatives.

Mr. Brown said that Esmael Meguid, secretary general of the Arab League, told him that at its March meeting the league would take up elimination of secondary boycotts against companies doing business with Israel.

President Clinton's administration wants the boycott ended because "it really undermines the ability of the region to develop economically, when



CONDOLANCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Saturday condole a member of the Maaytah family on the death of Nayeb Imran Maaytah, the first secretary at the Jordanian mission in Beirut (see page 1). Mr. Maaytah was shot dead in the Lebanese capital Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Libya names new premier

CAIRO (Agencies) — The General People's Congress, Libya's policy-making body in Moammar Qadhafi's unique governmental system, replaced the prime minister and named other new cabinet ministers Saturday.

Most of the government, including Foreign Minister Omar Al Muntasser, remained in place. But a minister was appointed to assume the vacant justice portfolio, which deals with the legally complex Pan Am bombing crisis that has Libya under punitive international sanctions.

Other ministerial changes announced by official Libyan Television were in the ministries of industry, housing, agriculture and information.

The new prime minister, Abdul Maged Qa'ud, known as a Qadhafi confidant, replaced Abu Zeid Omar Durda, who held the job for 15 months.

Mr. Qa'ud, one-time governor of Tripoli, has been responsible for agriculture and land-reclamation projects since the early 1970s.

He oversaw implementation of the pride of Colonel Qadhafi's 25-year tenure, the Great Manmade River. Inaugurated in 1991, the pipeline is designed eventually to transport water from aquifers deep inside the Libyan desert as many as 1,200 kilometers to fertile but dry growing areas on the Mediterranean coast.

Mr. Durda becomes assistant secretary-general of the General People's Congress, which under Col. Qadhafi's "jahmariya" system is supposed to be the supreme power.

Mohammad Mahmoud Hegazi, the new justice minister, has been in charge of "unity affairs" with Egypt, a cabinet portfolio created to further Col. Qadhafi's dream of uniting all the Arabs. Justice had been vacant since minister Ibrahim Bakkar died in a auto accident last year.

Libya could be counting on Mr. Hegazi's Egyptian connection to help solve its sanctions problem. Egypt has worked to find a face-saving way out for Libya since sanctions began almost two years ago.

Ending its annual meeting, the General People's Congress announced no new offers to solve the dispute with the United States, Britain and France over the extradition of two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The resulting crash killed 270 people.

## Egypt finds rare Hyksos tombs

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian archaeologists have found eight rare tombs from the little known Hyksos period, including probably the earliest intact skeleton of a horse, an animal introduced to Egypt by Hyksos invaders in about 1750 B.C.

"It's very rare to find Hyksos tombs and we are very excited about them," Ali Hassan, the head of the pharaonic sector at the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, said on Saturday.

Mr. Hassan told Reuters his archaeologists came across the tombs buried in the sand on Thursday while excavating in the desert near Tell Al Kebir, about 80 kilometers northeast of Cairo.

The tombs are close to the probable site of the Hyksos capital Avaris, in the east of the Nile Delta.

The archaeologists opened one of the tombs and found four human skeletons, one of them bandaged, earthenware and alabaster jars, and four scarabs — stone seals or amulets carved in the shape of dung beetles.

"The pots are high quality, well-made," Mr. Hassan said. The presence of the scarabs suggested the tombs belonged to important people, possibly Hyksos rulers, he added.

The skeleton of the horse was buried a few meters from the tomb itself, he said.

"Maybe we'll learn some more names of Hyksos rulers. We'll also study the skeletons, to learn something about the provenance of the people and the horse," he added.

The origins of the Hyksos puzzled archaeologists for years but it is now widely accepted that they were a race of Indo-Germanic type, related to the Hittites of Asia Minor.

They invaded northern Egypt from Asia and ruled for about 180 years until indigenous capital Thebes defeated them and drove them out in about 1570 B.C.

The Egyptians rapidly adopted the Hyksos horses in warfare.

Mr. Hassan said it was too early to date the tombs precisely but the mud-brick architecture, the pottery and the scarabs were all in typical Hyksos styles.

He said he planned to attend the opening of the other seven tombs, possibly next Saturday.

## Zeroual poised to take Algerian presidency

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's Defence Minister Lamine Zeroual seemed virtually certain Saturday to be named the strife-torn country's powerful new president within the next 24 hours.

Mr. Zeroual, a 53-year-old retired general, was expected to be officially appointed around midday Sunday by the country's military-nominated High Security Council. His nomination, as yet still unofficial, was seen as a fait accompli Saturday in diplomatic circles.

Four of the country's leading unions and professional bodies also expressed support for his nomination Saturday.

And Yousef Al Khatib, the president of last week's ill-fated national conciliation conference — convened to name a new head of state but boycotted by all the major parties — said Friday that Mr. Zeroual was the conference's only candidate for the post.

As president, Mr. Zeroual would head the armed forces, and have powers to call a state of emergency or referenda and nominate or dismiss the government during a three-year period at the head of a transitional administration prior to fresh elections in 1997.

The administration's main task will be to end an increasingly violent two-year-old insurrection by Muslim fundamentalists which secular state authorities have so far been powerless to put down.

Informed sources said Mr. Zeroual, who would also retain the defence portfolio he took over six months ago, was due to take the presidential oath either at the time of his nomination Sunday or a day later.

His acceptance of the post would fill a threatened power vacuum but could smack of a thinly-disguised military coup after the army's failure to find a civilian candidate for the presidency.

The previous preferred candidate, former Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika, turned down the post Wednesday. He was reportedly unhappy about the refusal to allow him to make military appointments or name a new prime minister.

Algerian political circles reacted with surprise Friday to Mr. Khatib's declaration saying that the conference had not made any mention of Mr. Zeroual in its final resolutions.

Mr. Khatib noted that Algeria needed a "strong man, exercising full powers," adding that the current formula of a five-man collegiate presidency covering the country since the January 1992 resignation of President Chadli Benjedid would be dropped when its mandate ended on Jan. 31.

## Turkish raids on PKK kill 9 in Iran villages

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Nine people were killed and 19 others wounded in several Iranian border villages when Turkish warplanes bombed a Turkish Kurd rebel camp inside Iran early Friday, Tehran Radio reported Saturday.

All the planes returned safely to base after inflicting "heavy losses" on armed members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at the Zaleh camp, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller told a news conference Friday after being briefed at headquarters of the armed forces in Ankara.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Borujerdi contacted his Turkish counterpart Begim Unan to express Iran's "worry at the deplorable situation" and asked for an explanation, Tehran Radio said.

Mr. Unan said the Turkish government would never allow such operations on Iranian soil and that the raid was intended to crush the PKK. He said Turkey was prepared to send a team to Iran to investigate the incident, the radio said.

The radio did not specify the location of the villages which were hit by "several rockets and bombs following the major Turkish air force operation in northern Iraq."

A Turkish military spokesman said Friday it was the air force's biggest raid on Kurdish rebel positions in Zaleh, believed to be home to 1,600 guerrillas, in the past 10 years and that more than 50 aircraft took part.

The Turkish press Saturday said up to 1,000 were killed in Zaleh, but a Turkish Kurdish rebel spokesman, Kani Yilmaz, was quoted in the pro-PKK Turkish daily Ozgur Gundem as saying there had been no losses at all in Zaleh.

The camp lies 110 kilometers into Iraqi territory and 500 kilometers from Turkish bases in eastern Turkey, according to the Turkish military spokesman.

Last year Turkey accused Iran of helping PKK rebels. Ankara claimed were operating from Iranian territory. Iran denied the accusation.

Turkey has launched several strikes against the Kurdish rebels entrenched in Iraq. In a helicopter-backed incursion last December, it said it had killed 200 guerrillas.

Iran, worried that the de facto Kurdish state in northern Iraq might inspire similar moves for autonomy from its own restive 6.5 million Kurdish minority, also has mounted military attacks against the Kurds.

Last July, Iran's air force bombed Kurdish bases in Iraq, while its ground forces penetrated 10 kilometers into Iraqi territory to strike at the rebels.

## Killing raises fears for Lebanon's recovery

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A gunman shot dead a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut on Saturday, reviving memories of the city's past as the killing ground and kidnap centre of the Middle East.

The killing of Nayeb Al Maaytah, the embassy's deputy head of mission, caused a shiver of apprehension among Lebanese officials conscious that security and confidence are the keys to rebuilding the country after the 1975-90 civil war.

"Whenever this country seems to be getting somewhere, something happens," sighed a bank officer when he heard of the killing.

Mr. Maaytah, 43, son of a former Jordanian government minister and senator, was the first foreign diplomat killed in Beirut since the civil war ended.

He was shot after getting into his car outside his apartment near the seafont in Beirut's western sector.

Witnesses said a gunman walked up and fired up the seven pistol shots through the driver's window.

A hospital security guard said Mr. Maaytah was hit in the head and neck and was dead on arrival. A weeping official at the Jordanian embassy said there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killing.

"No one has contacted us claiming responsibility. We do not know who is behind it," one embassy official told reporters.

Some witnesses said the killer was alone, others said he had a companion who did not take part in the shooting. They escaped on foot.

The killing was the first attack in Beirut since December when a truck bomb in the eastern sector destroyed the headquarters of the right-wing Falangist Party, killing three people and injuring 130.

The latest attack again threatened to undermine the emerging confidence in Lebanon bred by the successes of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and his team of Western-trained technocrats who have launched a 10-year reconstruction programme.

As the killer struck, teams from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were in Beirut to assess progress and identify ways to help.

"This is an attack on Lebanon's security, on its foreign relations and on its stability," Foreign Minister Faris Bouze said. "No doubt the people who did this wanted to bring chaos back to the country."

He said Lebanon had made big efforts to persuade the foreign diplomatic corps, especially the Jordanians, to return to Beirut after the killings and kidnapping that typified the 1980s.

The seizure of Western hostages by the pro-Iranian groups, headline news around the world, made much of Lebanon a no-go area for foreign investors.

Foreign bankers and Lebanese officials earlier this month hailed the nearly \$1 billion share flotation by the Solidere company that will rebuild central Beirut as evidence that confidence and capital were rapidly returning to Lebanon.

Since taking office 15 months ago, Mr. Hariri has stabilised the currency, reduced inflation, cut the budget deficit and begun restoring electrical power, telephones and other services.

Mr. Hariri, a businessman whose fortune is estimated at \$4 billion, has launched an ambitious programme to create local capital markets and win back Lebanon's role as a regional financial centre.

Raymond Audi, president of the Lebanese Bankers' Association, said last week money was pouring into the country thanks to the confidence Hariri had created.

It had received \$6.5 billion in net transfers from abroad and a \$3 billion in private investment since Mr. Hariri's appointment, he said.

Chronology of killings

Here is a chronology of key political figures and diplomats assassinated in Lebanon in recent years.

Sheikh Abbas Musawi, secretary-general of the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, killed with wife, five-year-old son and five bodyguards Feb. 16, 1992, when Israeli helicopter gunships rocketed his motorcade in South Lebanon.

National Liberal Party leader Dany Chamoun, a 65-year-old Maronite Catholic and son of former President Dany Chamoun, killed with wife and two sons by gunmen in east Beirut apartment Oct. 21, 1990. He had been a staunch supporter of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun, crushed by Syrians few days earlier. His supporters blamed Maronite rival Samir Geagea for slayings.

President Rene Moawad, a 64-year-old Maronite Catholic, slain in bomb ambush in Beirut as his motorcade passed Nov. 22, 1989, 17 days after he was elected. Christians blamed Syria, which in turn accused Gen. Aoun.

Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Sunni Muslim, perished in car-bomb explosion May 16, 1989, as he drove home in Beirut. He advocated reconciliation to end civil war.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Sunni advocate of reconciliation, killed June 1, 1987, when bomb exploded in army helicopter he was riding in.

Hizbollah leader Sheikh Ragheb Harb, fiery anti-Israeli Shiite fundamentalist preacher in South Lebanon, assassinated by unidentified gunmen at his South Lebanon home Feb. 16, 1984.

Hizbollah blamed Israelis who at time occupied region.

American University of Beirut President Malcolm H. Kerr shot dead on campus Jan. 18, 1984. Slaying claimed by anti-Western Islamic Jihad.

President-elect Bashir Gemayel, Maronite and pro-Israeli leader of powerful right-wing Falange Party and militia, killed with dozens of aides Sept. 14, 1982, when bomb exploded in party office in east Beirut. The Syrian Social Nationalist Party was blamed and two men arrested and convicted.

French Ambassador Louis Delamare shot 11 times by three gunmen who ambushed his limousine near Beirut's dividing green line April 9, 1981. Iranian-backed fundamentalists were blamed because France was a major arms supplier to Iraq.

Christian leader Tony Frangieh, son of former President Suleiman Frangieh and former posts and telegraphs minister, killed with wife, daughter and 30 bodyguards June 13, 1978, in attack on summer villa in north Lebanon by Falangists led by Geagea.

Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt, leader of Lebanon's Socialist Party, ambushed and killed by unidentified gunmen March 16, 1977, as he drove in Shouf Mountains. Jumblatt was highly critical of Syria, prime suspect in the slaying.

U.S. Ambassador Francis E. Meloy, economic counsellor Robert Waring and Lebanese chauffeur kidnapped and killed June 16, 1976, in Beirut, apparently by leftists.

## Melina Mercouri breaks foot

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri broke her foot Friday when she slipped on a television cable at an Athens hotel while attending a meeting of the ruling Socialist Pasok Party. The hospital where she was taken said the former actress was not badly injured and was allowed home after treatment.

## 2nd mistrial declared in U.S. murder case

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge declared a mistrial Friday in the murder case against Lyle Menendez, the second brother to end up with a deadlocked jury after admitting they killed their wealthy parents in a Beverly Hills mansion after years of alleged sexual abuse. Capping a 10-month trial filled with lurid tales of greed, rape and murder, Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg ended deliberations after 25 grueling days when the jury reported it was unable to reach a verdict. Legal experts called it a major victory for the defence team in a highly publicised trial that prosecutors once billed as an open-shut case of murder. Menendez, 26, and his brother, Lyle, 25, were charged with the slayings of their parents, Jose and Sylvia Menendez, in 1989. The judge ordered that the two remain jailed as the case goes to a second trial. The judge ordered that the two remain jailed as the case goes to a second trial. The judge ordered that the two remain jailed as the case goes to a second trial.

## AIDS campaign vetoed for being offensive

LONDON (R) — British health ministers have vetoed an AIDS campaign promoting safe sex and condoms on grounds it was too explicit and would cause offence, the Independent newspaper reported Saturday. But AIDS groups accused the Conservative government of running scared, causing further up to the ruling party's "moral majority" in the wake of a fiasco over its "back to basics" crusade for traditional family values. The Independent said Junior Health Minister Baroness Cumberlege believed all but one of the planned posters and cinema advertisements would cause "offence." It said she issued the ruling in a letter to the Health Education Authority, a government-funded body which coordinates education about AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) across the country. A dominant theme of the £2 million (\$3 million) campaign, due to be launched soon, was where to buy condoms and how to use them. It was the first attempt in two years to target the general population at risk of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Health Education Authority Director Linda Neil told the Independent she was bewildered by the decision. "We were assured by senior civil servants that it was acceptable when we submitted the campaign to the (Health) Department before Christmas," she said. The campaign had been widely tested among teenagers and their parents, who found it to be "appropriate, effective and did not cause offence," Ms. Neil said.